



CARJACKING

Should women ever drive alone?

Women, page 12



FASHION

Grunge slouches into high chic

Page 13



DRINK WALKING

Pedestrians over the Christmas limit

News, page 5

EDUCATION ON MONDAY

Page 31

THE TIMES

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Swiss reject closer EC links

Fresh blow to Major's hopes for Euro unity

By NICHOLAS WOOD
IN LONDON AND
GEORGE BROCK
IN BRUSSELS

JOHN Major's hopes of rescuing European unity at next weekend's Edinburgh summit were dealt another blow yesterday when Switzerland voted against closer links with the EC.

As the prime minister and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, embarked on a final round of meetings in European capitals aimed at brokering a deal in Edinburgh, a Swiss referendum rejected plans for a free-trade

■ As the prime minister sets off on his final round of pre-Edinburgh diplomacy, steps towards enlarging the EC have suffered a blow from Swiss voters

area embracing the 12 states of the European Community and the seven EFTA countries.

The vote against the European Economic Area was a particular blow for Mr Major because he has championed enlarging the Community to embrace Austria, Sweden, Finland, Norway and Switzerland. One of his few tactical victories recently was the acceptance by Germany and France that negotiations on new members could begin in the new year. Because the economic area was seen as a half-way house to full EC membership, the referendum throws Switzerland's application into doubt.

The result is also seen by diplomats as a further setback to European integration and adds to the formidable catalogue of problems piling up for Mr Major at the summit as he seeks to repair the battered reputation of the British presidency. A Scandinavian envoy whose government, like Switzerland's, has applied for EC membership, said: "This is a very bad day for Europe. It is a bitter blow for European integration as a whole."

But Tory Euro-sceptics hailed the Swiss vote last night, saying that the spectacle of another small country holding out against powerful forces would encourage the Danes to reject renewed blandishments from Brussels. "It's a good start for the week leading up to Edinburgh," one Conservative MP said.

The treaty's text includes procedures making it possible for the majority to continue if one or two states fail to ratify. Decisions to go ahead are likely to be taken in separate meetings this week by EFTA ministers and the EC leaders at Edinburgh. The Swedish European affairs minister, Ulf Dinkelspiel, said: "We will have to go ahead without Switzerland."

Lichtenstein is likely to follow the Swiss lead and withdraw. Less predictable effects may be seen on opinion about seeking full membership of the EC in other Scandinavian and Alpine states, where public sentiment has recently swung against it. Five EFTA states have applied to join the EC.

Mr Major will today hold talks with Ruud Lubbers, prime minister of The Netherlands, in The Hague, and with Albert Reynolds, the Irish taoiseach, in Dublin. At the top of his agenda are Britain's proposals for resolving Danish objections to the

Maastricht treaty and conflicting formulas for an increase in the EC budget.

Other potential flashpoints, such as the bloodshed in Bosnia, French hostility to the GATT trade deal and Commission proposals for a package to revive Europe's economies, are forcing their way onto Edinburgh's crowded timetable. Mr Hurd will today start a two-day meeting of EC foreign ministers in Brussels charged with paving the way to agreements at Edinburgh.

Downing Street officials said last night that the critical "conclave" session on the second day would have to try to settle at least the substance of the Danish compromise. The more difficult question of its form — how Denmark's demand for legally binding declarations can be reconciled with the refusal of all member states to renegotiate the treaty — would probably have to be left to the summit.

A critical obstacle is Spain's threat to block agreement over Denmark unless it gets more cash under the future financing proposals.

Both Downing Street and ministers were taking the prudent course of lowering expectations for the summit. But Conservative MPs were in no doubt that the difficulties were real enough. One said: "There are so many issues and they are all so difficult, you have to be pretty downbeat about the whole thing."

Tristan Garel-Jones, the foreign office minister responsible for Europe, struck an equally pessimistic note. "I remain worried about the difficulties on the Danish front," he said on London Weekend Television. "They are serious and the concerns of people like Wilfried [Wilfried Martens, the pro-Maastricht former Belgian prime minister] are serious."

"Future financing we're a long way apart on, and then the text on subsidiarity, the text on openness, whether we will be able to move to enlargement or not — it will be a very difficult exercise indeed. But what I think will underlie the discussions is whether we can afford to fail... and that might get us through."

Sir Leon Brittan, Britain's senior EC commissioner, injected a more optimistic note. He said on BBC television that the task of bargaining was "not easy, but not impossible".

Summit countdown, page 10
Leading article, page 15

INDIA'S DOMES CRASH DOWN AS CROWDS CHEER



Shrine siege: militant Hindus on one dome before razing the mosque

India plunged into religious turmoil by Hindu zealots

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN AYODHYA

INDIA has been thrown into a state of crisis, and appeared set on a course of religious confrontation after tens of thousands of Hindu zealots tore down an ancient mosque in the holy city of Ayodhya with their bare hands yesterday.

The three domes of the mosque crashed to the ground one by one, to the roars of triumph from 200,000 devotees. Lines of police faded away at the first hint of trouble, leaving no doubt where the sympathies of the predominantly Hindu force lay. The police watched passively as holes were smashed into the mosque walls, leaving a shell standing amid tons of rubble. The Central Reserve Police Force, a paramilitary unit, which had supposedly been sent to save the building, was nowhere to be seen.

The assault has undermined the authority of the government of P V Narsimha Rao, the prime minister, who promised Muslim leaders repeatedly that he would protect the building. In a national television broadcast last night, Mr Rao said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was guilty of a great betrayal. "What happened today is a matter of great concern and shame for all Indians," Mr Rao said. "We shall not spare any action at this grave moment of crisis."

Last night Kalayan Singh, chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, resigned saying he accepted moral responsibility for the destruction of the mosque. Until his resignation the state was run by the hardline Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which was behind yesterday's

chaos. The dismissal of the Uttar Pradesh government would have far-reaching consequences. With 120 million people, it is the most populous state and the most politically important. For India's 120 million Muslims, the events were a calculated insult. Islamic extremists groups had threatened a retaliation if the Ayodhya structure was besieged.

The immediate winner of yesterday's fiasco is the BJP. But it stands as a discredited organisation among moderate Hindus, which will make it all but impossible for the party to achieve its aim of moving towards the political centre to broaden its appeal.

Tens of thousands of Kar Sevaks (holy workers) were to have performed a simple ceremony on land alongside the mosque to symbolise the construction of a temple. As the propitious time to begin was 12.15pm, a few minutes before that a lone man clambered on top of one of the domes. A cheer went up. Then more climbed up, using grappling hooks. By 12.15pm scores of men were digging at the masonry with picks.

The mosque has been used by Hindus since partition in 1947. Hindu idols were installed in 1948. They were carried out piously yesterday to allow the inside of the mosque to be gutted. The mobs became hostile towards press and television journalists. Peter Heinlein, Delhi correspondent of Voice of America, was hit over the head with a pole.

Harmony destroyed, page 11

Anthony Harris in The Times

ANTHONY Harris, now of *The Financial Times*, one of the most influential and respected voices in business journalism, is to join *The Times* next month. At the same time William Rees-Mogg and Alexander Chancellor will arrive from *The Independent*. Harris will write a twice weekly column.

According to the National Readership Survey,



Anthony Harris

average daily readership of *The Times* increased to 1,220,000 between August and October, up 200,000 over the average for the past twelve months. And Audit Bureau of Circulation figures show *The Times* at 382,000 copies a day in November, 12,000 more than *The Independent*.

THE TIMES OVERSEAS	
USA	27-29
UK	16-17
Canada	32-36
France	36
Germany	16
Italy	31
Japan	13
Spain	15
Sweden	17
Switzerland	19-26
USA Today	18
Weather	18
Word watching	36
TV & radio	35

THE TIMES OVERSEAS
USA 27-29, BELGIUM 8, FIN 25, GERMANY 16, GREECE 16, HOLLAND 16, IRELAND 16, ITALY 31, JAPAN 13, NETHERLANDS 16, NORWAY 16, POLAND 16, PORTUGAL 16, SPAIN 15, SWEDEN 17, SWITZERLAND 19-26, USA 18, USA TODAY 18, WEATHER 18, WORD WATCHING 36, TV & RADIO 35

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Clinton denies snubbing No 10 over aid to Bush

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT AND MARTIN FLETCHER

BILL Clinton, the US president-elect, acted quickly last night to snuff out talk of strains in Anglo-American relations after postponing a meeting with John Major during the prime minister's Washington visit this month.

Mr Clinton went out of his way to deny any snub was intended. Downing Street officials said that with domestic matters his chief concern, the president-elect had decided to see no foreign leaders at this stage. The prime minister was told towards the end of last week.

As Labour tried to exploit the situation, Mr Clinton sent a message of goodwill which emphasised the value he

placed on the special relationship, and said he hoped Mr Major would understand his reasons for postponing a meeting until after his inauguration on January 20.

Clinton aides said that the decision about the meeting predated weekend reports about assistance given by the Conservatives to President Bush's campaign. The Clinton camp's irritation was magnified by confirmation that the Home Office searched its files for information on Mr Clinton's student days at Oxford.

Labour seized on the disclosures to accuse Mr Major of "fouling up" relations with Mr Clinton. Jack Cunningham, the shadow foreign secretary,

said that advice given by the Conservative Central Office "dirty tricks" department had backed off on the prime minister. "It's difficult to imagine a more disastrous start to relations with the new American president than this for Mr Major," he said.

However, Downing Street denied any rift and Whitehall officials maintained there was nothing improper about the Home Office checks on Mr Clinton. The Home Office searched its immigration and naturalisation files in October to see if Mr Clinton, when an Oxford student in the late

Continued on page 2, col 5

Peter Riddell, page 14

Afternoon fixture for princess

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Princess Royal's marriage to Commander Timothy Laurence will take place in Crathie church next to Balmoral at 3pm on Saturday afternoon. The couple's hopes of keeping their wedding secret were scuppered by a leak to Sunday newspapers, forcing Buckingham Palace to confirm what has been expected since the princess's divorce from Captain Mark Phillips earlier this year.

Such was the couple's desire for discretion that they did not even observe the normal Scottish legal requirement to post notice of a marriage at the nearest register office. The palace claimed last night that no law had been broken, but that the Lord Chancellor, Lord

Mackay of Clashfern, had exercised his power to waive the regulation.

The Queen's only daughter, 42, and Commander Laurence, 37, chose the date because the Queen, the Princess Royal and other members of the royal family were scheduled to be in Scotland on Friday. They are to host a dinner on board the royal yacht Britannia for European heads of state.

Saturday's wedding ceremony will be simple and private. Only about 30 guests have been invited. The Duchess of York is not expected to be among them.

Discreet courtship, page 3
Leading article, page 15

Employers exaggerate threat of redundancies

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

EMPLOYERS are exaggerating the threat of job losses faced by their workers in their announcements of redundancies, in order to impress shareholders and to take advantage of a loophole in accounting practice that is due to be closed next June.

According to UBS Phillips & Drew, the City stockbroker, which has kept a running tally of redundancy announcements, there is no close correlation between the headline figures in redundancy announcements and either the official unemployment figures or the number of jobs actually lost in the companies concerned in any one year.

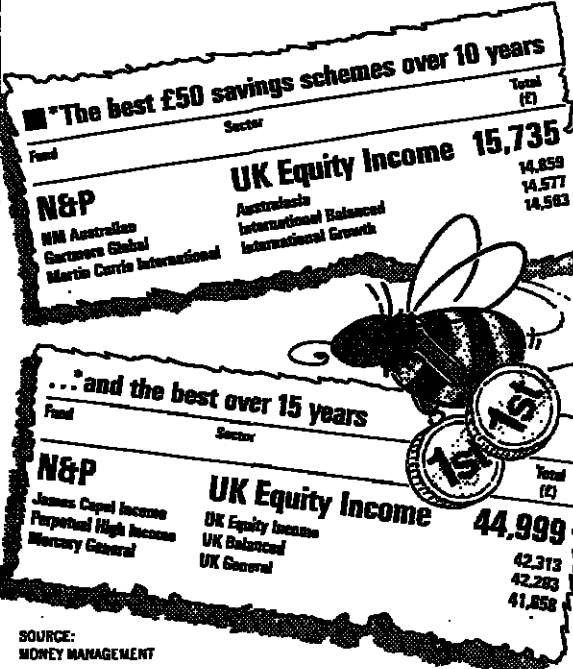
The thousands of apparent redundancies being announced almost daily by leading companies and nationalised industries are believed to be depressing consumer confidence and stifling hopes of economic recovery. The widely-publicised headline figures, such as last week's 16,000 job losses at the Post Office or the 3,500 cuts at the Royal Bank of Scotland in mid-November, also give a misleading impression of the number of jobs actually being lost.

Many of the redundancy announcements in recent

Continued on page 2, col 7
Economic view, page 34



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NEWS IN BRIEF

'Animal rights' gang shoot at police

Armed police swooped on villages in Lincolnshire yesterday after shots were fired at officers pursuing men in a stolen car. A police helicopter with heat-seeking equipment was used in the hunt for possibly three men around the area of Loughborough.

Several villages were surrounded by officers after the Ford Escort, believed stolen from South Yorkshire, was found abandoned in a ditch, police said. The men were disturbed by two officers at 4am at a pig farm at Newton on Trent. After a high-speed chase along country lanes the car stopped at the village of Fenton and several shots were fired at the pursuing officers. The men continued their getaway and the car was found abandoned in a ditch near the A156.

Police said it was not believed there was any terrorist connection and information indicated animal rights activists might be involved. Two pigs were found shot dead and a third was injured on the farm where the men were disturbed. The getaway car was almost submerged after crashing off an icy road into a water-filled dyke. "We are looking for two rather bedraggled young men who may be wet from being in that ditch," police said.

Baby stories swap urged

Two mothers whose babies were inadvertently swapped in a maternity ward would be helped if they could exchange stories about their infants' first few days of life, the National Childbirth Trust said. The mothers will need extensive personal counselling to overcome the trauma of being separated from their babies for 12 days after the incident at the Princess Anne maternity hospital in Southampton. Suzanne Dobson, director of the trust, said: "They will have to get to know their babies all over again."

Childcare staff warning

The government is to order greater care in choosing staff for children's homes, after a damning report showing councils are not thoroughly checking employees' backgrounds. A letter is to be sent to local authorities this week demanding an end to sloppy recruitment policies. Ministers are said to be disturbed by the findings of the Warner enquiry, set up after the Frank Beck scandal in Leicestershire, and published in full today. The 200-page report shows that only a handful of local authorities thoroughly vet staff.

Irish on the move

Many Irish families could leave Britain next year to return to their homeland under a government scheme that will pay council tenants up to £20,000 to move out of their homes. The aim is to release more accommodation for homeless families. Stan Quinry, director of the Irish Advisory Service in northwest London, said Irish immigrants were showing great interest in the house-purchase grant. "We staged a special conference recently and 1,000 people turned up, from which there were 450 enquiries."

Details of wanted man

Hampshire police have released details of a man they want to question in connection with an attack on a widower aged 80. Leonard Perkes has now gone to stay with his daughter at her home in Basingstoke after he was discharged from hospital. Police say the man is 5ft 9in, in his mid to late 20s, and wore a cream padded coat zipped at the front. He had a long fringe parted on the left side with sideburns which came down to as far as his mouth and over his upper lip. He had a fatish face and wore blue jeans.



Guns on the street: an armed officer stands by as City of London police search a vehicle stopped at a checkpoint yesterday afternoon

Briton appeals over public flogging sentence for swearing

By RAY CLANCY

A BRITISH hospital manager working in Saudi Arabia, who faces a medieval-style public flogging for swearing at his staff, is to appeal against the sentence imposed by a religious court.

David Brown, 32, was sentenced to 50 lashes with a bamboo cane despite apologising for his words during an argument at the King Khalid National Guard Hospital, 12 miles outside Jeddah. Last night, despite his pleas for no publicity, he was at the centre of what could emerge as a big political dispute.

Officially the Foreign Office is saying that there will be no intervention as the matter

relates to internal laws in Saudi Arabia. But there were calls from Bob Cryer, Labour MP for Bradford South, for stronger representations to prevent "a barbaric medieval punishment" being inflicted for what appears to have been a trivial offence.

Mr Brown was discussing alleged irregularities connected with the stores department two weeks after taking up his post with the British-run hospital in February. According to another doctor who met Mr Brown during a visit to the hospital recently, it had been a minor affair and everyone was surprised when he was arrested by the religious police

and charged with defamation. Russell Hopkins, a surgeon at the University of Wales hospital and chairman of the Welsh branch of the British Medical Association, said yesterday that the swearing happened when Mr Brown was explaining to two Saudi staff members what others were saying about the department.

"He admits he said there were people out there who looked at the stores department as a lot of f***ing idle bastards. He then said that was not the case. He didn't actually refer to any individuals. He spoke in a generic way about what people were alleging," Mr Russell said.

The two staff concerned complained about the incident and after an internal investigation Mr Brown apologised. "He understood the matter was at an end and was extremely surprised when he ended up in court," he added.

British consul staff and a local lawyer have assisted Mr Brown at three court hearings so far. A spokeswoman at the Foreign Office said that no further details would be given as Mr Brown had requested no publicity.

But Mr Cryer said there was no reason why more could not be done. "The Foreign Office should make strong representations to halt this barbaric medieval punishment. If they follow their usual form they will do nothing, because they are prepared to accept medieval barbarity rather than strain trade relations."

It is not clear how much pressure will be brought to bear on the Saudi authorities. Appeals in the past by British citizens sentenced to floggings for breaking the strict Saudi alcohol laws have not succeeded. It is likely that the consul department will seek a private meeting with officials and ask that the whole matter be quietly dropped.

Poll shows hint of economic optimism

By PETER RIDDELL, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE British public has become slightly less pessimistic about the economic outlook over the next year, though dissatisfaction with the government and with John Major as prime minister remains very high.

The latest Mori poll for Times Newspapers shows that the net balance expecting the economy to improve rather than get worse has shifted from -46 points at the end of October to -34 points now. This follows the Autumn Statement in the middle of the month and is around the levels of August and September.

Mori also asked about people's Christmas spending plans. Just 18 per cent said they would spend more than last year, and 41 per cent less, with the balance saying they would spend the same. The groups with the smallest percentages saying they would spend more were 45 to 54-year-olds, those living in London and those with mortgages (despite the fall in interest rates).

By contrast, the groups with the highest proportions planning to spend more than last year are 18 to 34-year-olds, those living in Scotland and northern England, council tenants and the single. In all cases, a larger proportion intend to spend less than last year.

These findings tie in with voting intention figures which indicate a sharp fall in Tory support in recent months

among 33 to 54 year olds and in southern England. Conservative support now stands at 34 per cent, down a point on the month and down nine points since the April general election. By contrast, the Labour party's rating has risen by two points on the month, and by 12 months since April, to 47 per cent. Liberal Democrat support, at 15 per cent, is three points lower than in April.

The rating of the government and of Mr Major has improved slightly, though only by comparison with the very low levels of a month earlier. The government's rating (satisfied less dissatisfied) stands at -70 points, against -75 points previously. Mr Major's rating is -44 points, compared with -51 points.

John Smith has so far only benefited to a limited extent from the government's troubles. His net favourable rating has slipped over the past month from +16 points to +12. By contrast, Paddy Ashdown appears to have suffered from his decision to back the government over the big European debate in the Commons on November 4. His rating has fallen from the +20 points of the August to October period to +7 points.

Mori interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,741 adults aged 18 plus at 141 sampling points throughout Great Britain between November 27 and December 1. © Mori/Times Newspapers



Smith: limited benefit from Major's troubles



Ashdown: standing with public has suffered

Police put armed officers on roadblocks

■ Belfast-style checkpoints are being deployed on the mainland to counter the IRA's bombing threat

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

ARMED police are operating random roadblocks across London in a high-profile offensive by Scotland Yard and the City of London police to combat the IRA's bombing campaign.

In a change of tactics, senior officers have publicly announced that task forces of 45 officers have stopped vehicles to question drivers on nearly 20 occasions in east London during the past two weeks.

But police said last night that the roadblocks would not become a permanent feature of the capital's roads and that the need for them was assessed on a day-to-day basis.

The offensive in east London, known as Operation Rolling Rock, is a significant extension of a strategy, developed in Northern Ireland, that has been deployed with little publicity around Westminster and the West End since the IRA mortar attack on 10 Downing Street in February 1991.

This weekend, officers from the City of London police set up a roadblock on Lower Thames Street, EC3, and intercepted traffic heading towards the West End. Armed officers wearing body armour questioned drivers and searched their vehicles. Black-and-white experts, including a semi-automatic car, were used in case of trouble.

A spokesman said that additional security cameras had been put on buildings and at key sites in the City.

Peter Turner, a computer installations manager from Lower Earley near Reading, Berkshire, said after being stopped: "I think it is good. I just hope that it will happen more. I have been in and out of Belfast and the security there is a reassurance."

By publicly disclosing that armed officers are operating in east London, the police clearly intend to reassure the public that efforts are being made to defeat the bombers, and will also hope to deter the IRA from attempting to bring more explosives into the capital. The terrorists might, however, switch to provincial targets.

Superintendent Bob Keeble said: "Terrorists have to move about and transfer their weapons from location to location. The presence of this type of roadblock should have a deterrent effect as they run a risk of being detected."

Scotland Yard said yesterday that 83 vehicles had been stopped in two nights of the operation and three people had been arrested for possession of cannabis. There were no arrests or seizures in relation to terrorist offences.

Similar tactics are used in Northern Ireland, where last year the Royal Ulster Constabulary set up checkpoints on main routes into Belfast after a series of large car bombs and hoax calls.

The problem for the security forces, however, is that such tactics involve a great deal of manpower and may irritate the public.

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Clinton denies snub to Major over Bush

Continued from page 1
1960s, had applied for British citizenship to avoid the draft during the Vietnam war. Nothing was found. Whitehall said the records were checked in response to questions from journalists, and not at the behest of the White House or the Republican party.

The government had been angling for a meeting with Mr Clinton during the prime minister's visit for the biannual US-EC summit, but sources said the two sides had agreed last Thursday to delay the meeting. That was two days before the story appeared.

Had Mr Clinton agreed to meet Mr Major, he would have come under intense pressure to see Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister, before his inauguration.

The arrival of several Conservative Central Office officials to help Mr Bush during the presidential campaign was widely reported in the American media, and they helped

the president hone his most potent attacks on Mr Clinton. Moreover, State Department officials were scouring their passport files for damaging information on Mr Clinton at about the same time that the Home Office was checking its archives. Sherman Funk, the department's inspector general, said that its staff and records had been improperly used in an attempt "to influence the outcome of a presidential election". He is investigating whether the White House was involved.

Dr Cunningham said: "The consequences of this is that John Major has fouled up relations with the new US president. That's bad for Britain and the fact that he has fouled up is confirmed by the president-elect's refusal to meet him."

The focus of Mr Major's visit now will be the US-EC summit and a personal farewell to President Bush.

Peter Riddell, page 14

Redundancy threat exaggerated by firms

Continued from page 1
weeks have lumped together firm plans to lay off relatively small numbers of workers immediately with hazy projections about the effects of labour-saving automation and corporate restructurings in the very long term. Interviews with accountants, company chairmen and City analysts affirm that corporate managers are under pressure to emphasise and at times exaggerate plans to cut employment, recognising that some of the job cuts announced may never transpire.

Corporate managers have been emphasising their redundancy plans for three reasons. First, according to several company chairmen, there is now a cult of management machismo that equates sackings with effective management. Second, shareholders have been reacting favourably to firms that announce redundancies. According to one City banker, companies that have had to cut or hold dividends are under particular

pressure to "show they are sharing the pain between workers and shareholders".

However a third, previously unreported factor may currently be even more important. New accounting standards that come into effect in June will remove the big financial incentive that now exists for companies to make long-term redundancy announcements, even if the jobs in question are not in the end lost. At present the full cost of a redundancy programme can often be deducted in one charge from a company's capital, while the benefits accrue gradually to profits, swelling reported earnings and permitting dividends to rise. From June 23, under a new financial reporting standard, companies will not be able to do this. There is therefore an incentive for companies that have not yet adopted the new standard to announce before June any redundancies they might be contemplating.

Economic view, page 34

Presbyterian service will be in stark contrast to the pomp and ceremony of Westminster Abbey

Discreet finale puts seal on an undercover relationship

By ALAN HAMILTON

WHAT would otherwise have been an exceedingly discreet courtship between the Princess Royal and Commander Timothy Laurence was blown out of the water at an early stage by the kind of mine that lurks beneath the keel of every undercover romance.

In April 1989, intimate letters from the commander to the princess were spirited from her briefcase into the eager hands of the tabloid press. Buckingham Palace was cornered into naming the author when it learnt that the tabloids were about to name the wrong man. It was a moment of high embarrassment for all concerned; the princess was still nominally married to, and living with, Captain Mark Phillips, although in retrospect that union now appears to have been to all intents and purposes dead for some time.

Four months later, in announcing the legal separation

until the princess's divorce from Captain Phillips went through the courts earlier this year.

But discretion fights an uphill battle with the telephoto lens. The couple were spotted sailing in the princess's new yacht *Doublet*, and it became known that the commander had been a guest at Balmoral and Sandringham, initially signs of test rather than approval.

Finally, a clear signal was hoisted. The commander escorted the princess to the Royal Caledonian Ball last spring and they allowed themselves to be photographed in the throes of an eightsome reel. The princess's expression, a happier one than she had worn in public for years, was a barely concealed coded announcement of her intentions.

The princess has found a discreet and private partner, but one who is said by friends to be deeper and more cerebral than Captain Phillips. The princess's well-deserved reputation for hard work has been seen in the past as an antidote to a first marriage which she found unfulfilling.

The couple are expected to live at Gatcombe Park, the house and estate bought by the Queen for £500,000 as a wedding present for her daughter in 1973, with its adjoining farm to give Captain Phillips an interest and a living. The princess will undoubtedly continue her active public life and Commander Laurence will act as her escort whenever the occasion demands. He is said to have an easy and happy relationship with the princess's two children, Peter, 15, and Zara, 11.

Her second wedding will be in stark contrast to her first. Instead of a glittering theatrical tableau in Westminster Abbey in 1973, televised around the world as a showpiece of British monarchical pomp and tradition, she will experience the sterner atmosphere of the Kirk. Crathie is a small, pleasant but plain country church in the Scottish Presbyterian tradition that has no truck with frills, ornament or any whiff of idolatry.

The wedding will be private, with only 30 guests, and an expected media scrum kept well back on the opposite side of the road. That it is happening at all is a significant milestone in the changing moral perceptions of the royal family and the nation. Rarely since Henry VIII has



A private romance: Commander Laurence, top right, endeared himself to the Queen, pictured yesterday, by his discretion. They will be married at Crathie Church, near Balmoral. The coded sign of the couple's intentions came at a Highland ball, left, last year

one so close to the throne divorced and remarried.

Edward VIII was obliged to abdicate in 1936 because the prime minister, Stanley Baldwin, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cosmo Gordon Lang, were firmly of the view that the populace would not countenance the twice-divorced Wallis Simpson as queen. The view persisted into the 1950s when Princess Margaret fell deeply in love with the divorced royal equestrian Captain Peter Townsend. Again, the guardians of public morality pronounced it unthinkable that the queen's sister should take a tainted husband.

Morality, however, is not entirely dead and buried. The Church of England officially still frowns on marrying divorced persons, although many an individual parish priest is happy to do so. The problem for the princess is that her mother is the church's supreme governor, and for next Saturday's ceremony to

have taken place under the Anglican rite, with the supreme governor in the front pew, would have looked too much like a seal of approval.

No such difficulty troubles the Church of Scotland. Blessed with having no episcopal hierarchy to turn the sails of its ministers, it has for years taken a more liberal approach to second marriages and tends to leave the decision to the discretion of individual clergy.

An alternative for the princess and Commander Laurence would have been a civil ceremony, but only north of the border. The Royal Marriages Act of 1772 debars a child of the sovereign from a civil wedding, as does a piece of Victorian legislation which forbids any member of the royal family from marrying in a register office in England and Wales. The clause was inserted, apparently, because no one ever dreamt that a royal personage could conceivably want to do such a thing.

When Prince Michael of

Kent married Marie Christine von Reibnitz, a Roman Catholic divorcee, their union was sealed at a civil ceremony in Vienna. They subsequently had an informal blessing from the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume. The

prince, by marrying a Catholic, lost his admittedly lowly place in line of succession. The Princess Royal, currently eighth in line, will not.

Scotland is another country where the law relating to civil marriages is distinctly different. In 1988, the Earl of St

Andrews, eldest son of the Duke and Duchess of Kent, married Sylvana Tomaselli, another Catholic divorcee, at a register office in Edinburgh to circumvent the strictures of English church and law.

Leading article, page 15

Couple will vow love and loyalty

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday welcomed the announcement that the Princess Royal and Commander Timothy Laurence were to marry. Dr George Carey, who is in Sri Lanka, said he "responded warmly" to the news. He wished them "every happiness and fulfilment in their marriage" and said they, and Peter and Zara, were in his prayers.

The liturgy for the wedding will be based on one of two alternatives in the Church of Scotland's *Book of Common Order*. The Rev Keith Angus, Church of Scotland minister in Crathie, is known locally to prefer the traditional 1940 wedding liturgy to the revised 1979 version.

The Princess Royal and Commander Laurence will vow to be "loving, faithful and loyal ... until God shall separate us by death." They will exchange rings and say some set prayers, but the precise form of the service will be decided only after discussions with the minister. The Princess Royal will not promise to obey her new husband.

The Church of Scotland has allowed the remarriage of divorced people who have living partners since 1959. The proclamation of banns was abolished in 1978 although, under the 1977 Marriage (Scotland) Act, a marriage schedule, with birth dates and other details, has to be with the local registrar two weeks before the wedding.

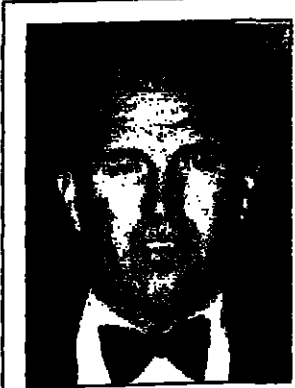
Molly Croll, the registrar in Balmoral, has not yet received a schedule but the same act allows the registrar general, Dr Charles Glennie, to make exceptions. Dr Glennie has not yet been asked to make such an exception because no schedule has been submitted, but he is understood to have been consulted. Mrs Croll is expected to receive the schedule early this week.

of the princess and Captain Phillips, the palace was at pains to stress that the decision had been taken well before the discovery of the *billets doux*.

Commander Laurence, a single, presentable, well-mannered, career naval officer with excellent promotion prospects, came to the notice of the princess when he was posted to Buckingham Palace in 1986 as an equerry to the Queen, a position filled in rotation by officers from all three armed services. He assumed a high profile in the job after the death of another equerry, Major Hugh Lindsay, in an avalanche while skiing with the Prince of Wales at Klosters.

In 1989, he returned to more mundane naval duties, eventually gaining his first command, of HMS *Bower*. He has since, in the normal cycle of service life, been posted ashore to a desk job at the defence ministry in London.

Since the unfortunate affair of the stolen letters, Commander Laurence has conducted himself with commendable discretion, a fact that will have endeared him to the Queen. Reporters who knocked on the door of his modest terraced house in Winchester, Hampshire, were given polite but firm "no comments". Decorum demanded that there be no public display of a relationship



Phillips: confounded his 'Fog' nickname

Break-up exacted heavy toll

MARK Phillips has faced rough times with remarkable dignity since the collapse of his marriage to the Princess Royal. The man the Windsors nicknamed Fog has shown himself neither thick nor wet, but a fighter determined to retrieve the good times.

Neither before nor since the divorce has he spoken

PHILLIPS

of his marital or money troubles, though the break-up and the recession took a severe toll. In April he sold his controlling stake in the Gleneagles equestrian centre in Scotland. Last year, sponsors withdrew from his British Open Horse Championships at Gatcombe Park because the princess was no longer associated.

Captain Phillips has worked hard carving out a living giving equestrian lecture tours and clinics.

A miraculous but hard-earned transformation of image

By TOM CORBY, FORMER PRESS ASSOCIATION COURT CORRESPONDENT

THE Princess Royal and Commander Timothy Laurence must have guffawed yesterday when they read some of the more sugary reportage of their forthcoming wedding.

The princess and her husband-to-be, who will marry at Crathie church, close to Balmoral Castle, next Saturday, were doubtless equally amused by the suggestion that the second marriage of one of the most hard-working members of the royal family would be the salvation of the House of Windsor.

That it comes at the end of what the Queen described as her *annus horribilis* is a bonus for the headline writers, but the princess would have paid scant attention to the needs of the press corps in setting the date.

Practicality, as always, would have been her aim. She is carrying out official engagements in Edinburgh and Clackmannan on Friday, and that night the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh host a dinner for the heads of state and ministers attending the EC summit in Edinburgh. The Princess and Princess of Wales will also attend the dinner. One can almost hear the Princess Royal saying: "The sensible thing would be for us to marry while you are all up here."

The 42-year-old princess has a love-hate relationship with the media, regarding it as a necessary intrusion which might, or might not, publicise her growing portfolio of charity work. Two years ago I travelled 7,500 miles across the former Soviet Union with her. The press party was sparse after Mos-

cow, two or three at most, and not once did we merit even "good morning" from the princess. Finally our over-sensitive little band got the message: she was there to work and so were we. Facile courtesies were therefore beside the point.

A few weeks later I interviewed her at Buckingham Palace about her involvement in Victim Support, which helps people who have been the target of crime, and the Butler Trust, an organisation concerned with the welfare of prison workers. She could not

have been more charming, or more forthcoming, punctuating our conversation with ironic wit, anecdotes and lots of good information ... and this at the end of a day when she had carried out four public engagements and was about to attend a fifth that evening.

The days of "Princess Naff Off" have long gone and the headlines now tend to proclaim her as "Princess Caring". If she cares at all about her press coverage, and all the indications are that she does not, I suspect she would find this other extreme epithet irritating.

Next to the Queen, the Princess Royal is statistically the most hard-working member of the royal family, undertaking as many as 50 public engagements a month. She has always believed that the royals should earn their keep and during 1991 carried out 332 engagements in Britain and 241 abroad.

The princess has visited more than 70 countries and

much of this travel has been as president of Save The Children since 1970. She is a remarkably well informed and obviously speaks with first-hand experience when advocating the charity's work.

It was through this role, without any prompting from her or her staff, that the princess's media rehabilitation began. At last newspapers woke up to her true worth. As she wryly commented on her return from her first marathon tour of eight countries in three weeks: "I did notice my miraculous transformation."

The princess is patron or president of 100 other organisations and her interest in them takes her all over Britain. In 1987, in recognition of her role, the Queen made her Princess Royal, a title held by only six previous British princesses, the last being Mary, Countess of Harewood, only daughter of King George V and Queen Mary.

I was in Buckingham Palace the day the announcement was made and asked, through the press office there, if the princess would comment. I cannot recall her exact response, only its laconicism. Beneath her rather severe hair style, the princess is funny and warm when encountered face to face. She is also down to earth with an independent spirit, and I cannot imagine her second marriage changing her. She will not, I expect, reduce her workload and will continue the same quick-witted, sometimes sharp, public style we have become accustomed to. Would we now want her to be anything other than her real self?

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TREASURES SEND THEIR MESSAGE OF GREEK MACEDONIA

It is true that when ordinary people refer to Greek antiquity, they usually have in mind ancient cities that had played an important role in the growth of civilization from prehistorical up to the classical period. Among them, Athens, Thebes, Corinth, Sparta, Olympia and other city-states of the southern part of Greece, the Aegean islands, Crete, Cyprus, west Asia Minor and even south of Italy, the very well known "Magna Graecia" are among the prevailing ones. On the contrary Macedonia's history comes into existence since the glorious reign of King Philip, his son Alexander the Great, and his generals who ruled over the remains of the late Persian empire, creating the very well known and so important Greek centers of civilization of Alexandria, Pergamos, Antioch of Mesopotamia. Nevertheless, Macedonia's previous history remains quite obscure to common people.

However, archaeological excavations during the last twenty years brought to light hundreds of ancient Greek cities, temples, palaces, theaters and tombs, one of which is the famous tomb of King Philip, and treasures of an exquisite workmanship and design. Chronologically, they cover the most important periods of the Greek history from the Mycenaean up to the classical times. Their number increases in such a manner, that in the years to come, they will very probably exceed those of the southern part of the country, which was wrongly considered to constitute the main body of Greek antiquity. Therefore, when talking of ancient Greece, one must have in mind its northern part as well, i.e. Macedonia.

The bronze crater of Derveni

Amongst the most important finds are the bronze crater and several other bronze vases with an attractive golden appearance. They were discovered near Thessaloniki, capital of Macedonia in 1969. They are ascribed to the 4th century B.C., a period during which metal working technique in Greece had reached an amazingly high standard of perfection.

The large crater, a unique masterpiece of ancient Greek art and technology, has a 90 cm height, and an approximate mass of 40 kg. The base, the four statuettes, which lie on the crater's shoulder, and the two heavy handles are cast, while the whole main body with the fine relief decorations is forged.



Its golden colour, which led archaeologists to believe that it was gold plated, is due to an unusual high tin content (15%). It is surprising how ancient Greeks had shaped the hard copper - tin alloy into such a large vase and, what is more, they had decorated its main body with high relief decorations.

On the other hand, X-ray investigation led to the unexpected conclusion that this huge crater was from bottom to the middle of its neck a one piece vase. At this point exists the sole welding zone between the main body and the upper part of the crater. Just above the welding point some small size wild animals seem to walk on an irregular ground. In this way, the artist has actually succeeded in hiding the rather rough welding.

Macro and micro examination and experimental work showed that the crater would have been produced by forging, while the smaller bronze vases either by forging, or on the lathe or, finally by a

combination of both. In fact, some of the small vases show signs of spinning on the lathe.

The above study has largely contributed in assessing the achievements realized by ancient Greeks in Macedonia during the 4th century B.C., and has led to the conclusion that throughout this period Greek art and technology had actually reached a climax of perfection and, what is more, Macedonia the new Greek super power that had succeeded Athens after its decline constituted part of the ancient Greek world and a continuation of its civilization.

Prof. Dr. George J. Varoufakis
Head of the Research and Quality Control Department
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Health chiefs protest over the hidden cost of GP fundholders



Bottomley: accused of feather-bedding GPs

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

FAMILY doctors who hold their own hospital budgets have made huge savings in the first year of the fundholding scheme.

They are using the money to enhance their practices, while district health authorities are having to halt treatment of patients to save money.

The savings — up to £280,000 for one practice in East Anglia — will be an embarrassment to Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, who is to address the first national conference of GP

fundholders in Birmingham on Wednesday. She will have to answer charges that the GPs have been feather-bedded and are siphoning money from health authorities and non-fundholding GPs.

Critics say the fundholders are personally benefiting by using savings to extend the surgeries which they own. One said: "If the aim is to improve the health of the nation rather than the health of a few this is not a sensible way to go about it."

Under the fundholding scheme, practices are allocated a budget with which to pay hospital services for their patients in the NHS

market and to pay for drugs and staff. Legally, any savings made belong to the practice but because of the huge sums involved regions are now negotiating for the return of some of the money.

"You can't plan services when a group of GPs have walked off with £500,000," one health authority manager said. Some health authorities are having to defer treatment of routine patients until after next April to avoid overspending.

In Wakefield, West Yorkshire, Dr Lufte Kamal and his five partners saved £192,000, or 13.5 per cent, on their budget of £1.42 million for 1991-2. Dr Kamal has

offered to pay £50,000 back to the regional health authority but intends to spend the rest on equipment, upgrading rooms, and building a £90,000 extension to the practice, which the partners own.

Most of the savings were achieved by bringing consultants out from the hospital seven miles away to run out-patient clinics in the surgery, avoiding high hospital charges. "The result was we made a huge saving and we have no waiting list in eight specialties," Dr Kamal said.

Dr Geoffrey Kremer said his six-partner practice in Bracknell, Berkshire, had saved £100,000, which

would be used to buy equipment, hire extra staff and pay for a £40,000 extension to the surgery. "If we work efficiently we use the same money to provide a better service," he said.

Bill Williams, manager of the North Brink practice in Norfolk, said the nine GPs had made a large saving on their £2.3 million budget but would not confirm that it was £280,000. "We are still in discussion with the region over how much we can agree is a saving," he said.

A survey published in *Fundholding* magazine shows that GPs have made big savings in almost every region. In South East

Thames the average saving among the 14 fundholding practices was £75,000. In East Anglia, six of the nine fundholders saved an average of £117,000 on their hospital budgets alone. In Oxford 21 of the 25 fundholders made savings ranging up to £111,000.

The health department said that there had been difficulties over pricing budgets in the first year and a more sophisticated system was being sought. Regions would be able to reduce budgets if there was clear evidence that the original figure was too generous. Many GPs had voluntarily returned savings to health authorities.

Spending curb forces new round of schools cuts

■ School meals, grants and music teaching are under threat in Avon — the first of many counties preparing to make education cuts

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

AVON will tomorrow become the first of many local authorities to cut education services for next year to meet government spending limits.

Overspending in the current year had already forced the county to review its education budget before it was notified of its grant for 1993-4. Now it may have to make savings of at least £15 million on a budget of £320 million.

Advisory teachers' posts have already been cut, and the cost of school meals raised from January. The next round of savings might include economies in special schools, restrictions on school transport and a sharp reduction in discretionary grants for further education. Field study centres and some music teaching

may also be lost. John Main, the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association's representative on the education committee, said: "Central services are being cut first because the savings can be made more quickly. But school budgets also look like facing 5 per cent cuts. That would mean the loss of up to 1,000 teachers' jobs and it is difficult to see how the figure could be less than 200."

The funding council is trying to lessen the impact by redeploying teachers but local management of schools means that governors are responsible for appointments, and transfers cannot be guaranteed. At the same time, the recession has increased the demand for services, with more pupils qualifying for free school meals and more staying in education beyond 16.

Avon's plight is likely to be repeated in many authorities. Grants for 1993-4 were even lower than local government officials feared, and the arrival of independence for further education colleges has caused extra difficulties. The Association of Metropolitan Authorities estimates that its members have lost £200 million more than they spent on the colleges in the transfer.

Harrow, in northwest London, for example, is to lose £17 million when its three further education colleges become independent next April, although they cost only £10 million to run. A cuts package that would close all the borough's nursery classes may cause a rebellion among Conservative councillors.

Neighbouring Barnet, also Conservative controlled, has calculated that to maintain existing services next year would cost £15.5 million more than the borough will be allowed to spend. Senior council officials called a meeting with teacher unions last week to warn them.

In a statement today, six unions said: "We earnestly hope there will be sufficient public pressure to ensure a review by the government of the rate support grant allocation. Otherwise our borough, which has followed all the official guidelines and has a proud tradition of education, will be forced to make draconian cuts in its services and accept a lowering in its standard of educational provision."

The government calculates that the standard spending assessment for local authority education has been increased by 3 per cent nationally. But, even if teachers' pay is held to the public sector norm, local authority leaders claim that the budgets are at least 2.5 per cent short of the amount needed to maintain services.

Education Times, page 31



Scene setter: flakes from a snow machine falling in Rochester, Kent, yesterday for a Victorian weekend during which a carpark was made into an ice-rink

New chairman of the Bar plans free advice centres

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Bar is to create a national network of free advice centres for people pursuing claims before tribunals or in county courts who cannot get legal aid.

The scheme, which comes after the government's announcement of the biggest restrictions on legal aid eligibility in its 40-year history, is one of the main items on the agenda of the Bar chairman-elect, John Rowe QC, who will be head of the profession in 1993.

There are already so-called free representation units in London, Manchester and Wales, but the work is largely handled by student barristers and confined to tribunals. It rarely involves QCs or barristers of experience, or court work.

Mr Rowe, who was the driving force behind the Manchester centre, envisages a big expansion of the scheme, first to cover county court work, possibly through a duty lawyers' scheme, and, second, through use of established members of the profession. He argues that every barrister should be prepared to take on one case a year for no charge.

"I am keen to see free representation and advice schemes set up throughout the country. Employment and welfare and immigration rights are of fundamental importance yet in the tribunals, where these things are decided, ordinary people cannot get legal aid, and free representation is essential," Mr Rowe said.

The scheme is certain to

prompt criticism in some quarters that it will help the government to reduce public funds for legal services with impunity. But he denies the scheme would help underpin what should be a publicly funded service. "We have got to face the fact that legal aid is going to be limited, that there is not going to be an extension of legal aid to these cases. If people are going without, I don't think the Bar should stand back and say we will just wait for the Lord Chancellor to extend legal aid. We should get on with doing something."

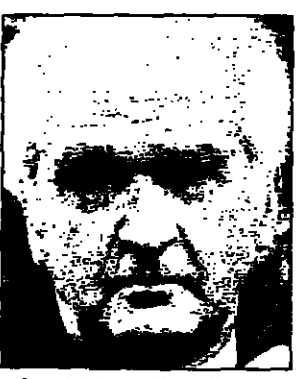
Mr Rowe, 56, leader of the northern circuit for the past four years, is regarded as being more conservative than his two predecessors, Lord Williams of Mostyn QC and Anthony Scriven QC. For example, he does not back the creation of a Judicial Appointments Commission in place of the present system of selecting judges. Nor does he believe that wigs should be discarded.

But he is fully behind the Bar line on issues such as opposing rights of audience for Crown prosecutors, and combating race and sex discrimination at the Bar are high on his agenda.

Also included in what he calls a five-point plan of action for his year as chairman are implementation of the Seabrook report on criminal trials, which looked at ways to reduce costs and delays, such as setting up a formal system of plea-bargaining with reduced sentences for guilty pleas. Other targets are education and training — he plans a gradual extension of continuing education for qualified barristers — and the Bar's working practices. He wants to encourage a more efficient and competitive system in the face of competition from solicitor advocates.

Mr Rowe, a popular choice who is well known for his jokes and mimicry, comes from a general practice where he has specialised in criminal fraud, personal injury and medical negligence. He is fond of French and German literature and church architecture.

During the next 12 months his aim is to help restore public confidence in the legal system. "Costs and delays must be eliminated, miscarriages of justice must be eliminated. If criminal cases were coming on within weeks of conviction and civil cases within a few months, and the system was in what I would call first-class condition, then we would not even be talking about discarding wigs."



Lord Chancellor: directs legal aid system

Opt-out trusts may shun the over-50s

By JOHN YOUNG

TOUGHER guidelines are needed to prevent opted-out hospitals from refusing potentially life-saving treatment to the over-50s, a study published today says. Pensioners risk being told they are medically unsuitable for treatment by trusts eager to make a profit in the new market-style NHS, it says.

Professor Grimley Evans, co-author of the report and head of geriatric medicine at Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, says there is already evidence that older people are being denied help in some coronary care units. A recent survey of 175 units showed that one fifth had age-related admission policies and two fifths had put age limits on who should have clot-busting drugs.

The report also says that the increase in life expectancy has not been matched by a proportionate decline in ill health and disability. Appropriate exercises can delay or reverse physical decline and restore fitness among older people.

The study is the ninth and last in a series undertaken by the Carnegie UK Trust into what it calls the "third age". Final conclusions and recommendations based on all nine investigations will be presented to a conference in London next April.

The trust divides the human lifespan into four stages: childhood and schooling; work and raising a family; active independence; and old age, in which people become frail and dependent on others. Because of a declining birthrate, earlier retirement and a longer

lifespan, Britain and other countries have a larger proportion in the third category than ever before.

The final report is certain to emphasise that the nation cannot afford to allow so many people in the "third age" to leave their main jobs and go into retirement, when they could look forward to new part-time, flexible and enjoyable careers. But if they are to fulfil their potential they must pay more attention to their health.

The study suggests that it is time to bury the prevalent pessimistic view that mental and physical functions decline inexorably with age, and that ageing is exclusively genetically determined. Psychological deterioration with age is not inevitable, and is often more than compensated for by knowledge and experience. Most people in the third age are still functioning at or near their peak.

However, in spite of increased awareness of the importance of being physically fit, only 34 per cent of those aged between 55 and 64, and 23 per cent of those between 65 and 74, take enough exercise to maintain their functional independence. Even fewer take enough to protect them against heart disease.

The Department of Health said that it would regard as unacceptable for treatment to be denied on the grounds of a patient's age alone. Clinical priority was, however, a matter for professional judgment, a spokesman said.

A girl's best friend is her name

By KATE ALDERSON

WALTER, Prince of Softies, the character from the *Beano* comic who was bullied by Dennis the Menace, is a victim of the stereotypes associated with people's names. Walters are apparently no less manly than Davids and Johns.

Boys are apparently unaffected by their names, but research by Helen Petrie, a psychologist, shows that the future personality of a girl could be determined by the name she is given at birth. Dinahs and Lucys develop into more feminine women, while Maureens and Ellens are more likely to be tomboys.

The *Name Game*, a BBC Radio 5 programme to be broadcast today, examines the fashions in names, whether they can determine masculinity or femininity or if the choice of an unusual name can hinder a person's life.

"Having a name that's out of the ordinary is quite an advantage," Ms Petrie said. "It makes people feel special: you're easy to remember and not likely to be confused with anyone else. It seems to be a positive thing."

John Walters, the television and radio presenter, says that an unusual name can be cruel. "Cybil Shepherd's got a child called Ariel — is she going to call her next one Daffy? My colleague John Peel called his first two children Anfield and the next two Daffish and Shanksy. Luckily, they're only middle names."

Leslie Dunkling, who has been compiling lists of the most popular names for many years from the Register of Births, has found that Daniel, Matthew, James, Christopher and Adam are the most popular boys' names. Emma, Sarah, Laura, Charlotte and Amy are the most favoured girls' names, with Rebecca increasingly popular.

Asterix's asteroid hurtles towards a nearish miss

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

AN asteroid about two miles in diameter will pass by the Earth tomorrow. Toutatis, named after a god of ancient Gaul often called upon by the cartoon hero Asterix, is expected to come as close to the Earth as any asteroid for the rest of this century.

Astronomers say there is no danger of a collision, and are taking the opportunity to study Toutatis, using the £2 billion orbiting Hubble space telescope and radar signals from radio telescopes.

The asteroid is the largest object to cross Earth's orbit on a regular basis

but, if the scientists' calculations are right, it will miss us by a full two million miles, so there is no need to hide under the table. Its elliptical orbit takes it out almost to the orbit of Jupiter before swinging back every four years to pass close to the Sun. The proximity to Earth varies on each pass: in 2004 Toutatis is expected to come even closer, within a million miles of Earth.

The asteroid is far too small to be seen with the naked eye, though amateur astronomers with small telescopes should be able to pick it out just below the constellation of Leo. Using the Hubble, scientists at the Space Telescope Science Institute

hope to make out the shape of Toutatis, while ground-based instruments will see only a point of light.

The best images may come from radar mapping which ought to be able to pick out details 160 metres across. Using radar signals sent out by the Goldstone antenna in California and picked up by the 27-dish Very Large Array in New Mexico, Steven Ostro and colleagues from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California hope to establish the asteroid's shape, how fast it is spinning, and some surface details.

Toutatis was discovered in 1989 by the French astronomer Christian Pollas and named after the Gallic

deity known as "protector of the tribe". In fact, it had been sighted once before, in 1934, but then lost. When it was rediscovered, astronomers were able to show that it was the largest of the 20 or so asteroids which cross the Earth's orbit.

Coincidentally another object will pass much closer to the Earth tomorrow: the satellite Galileo, which will swoop to within 220 miles of the Earth, almost touching the atmosphere, to gain momentum for its flight to Jupiter. Galileo was launched in 1989 and has already made passes of the Earth and Venus in its long flight to Jupiter, where it is expected on December 7 1995.

A HOPEFUL CHRISTMAS

To all our kind friends especially the bereft and redundant. You were left with so little and gave so much for the care of the gravely ill. Our thanks go out for your richness of spirit and truly Amazing Grace.

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Drink takes a high toll on the midnight ramblers

■ People are finally getting the message not to drink and drive, but walking home after a night at the pub can also prove fatal

By ELAINE FOGG

ANNUAL publicity campaigns have done much to spotlight the perils of drink-driving. However, they have yet to address a growing menace highlighted in a new government report — the drunken walker.

Inebriated pedestrians, including a large proportion who stagger home to avoid a drink-driving offence, could put themselves, and others, in danger this Christmas, according to a report by the government's Transport Research Laboratory.

Of those pedestrians killed between the hours of 10pm and midnight last year, four out of five had been drinking and two thirds were over the legal limit for driving. A total of 460 pedestrians above the drink-drive limit were killed across the country, says the report, which gained its data from police and hospital records.

Danny Daniels, of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, said: "People are finally getting the message to leave their cars at home when they drink. But deciding to walk instead can prove fatal if they are drunk."

Whatever dangers are posed by the walking drunk, it is still the drunken driver who causes the greatest potential risk to life. A spokesman for the transport department said yesterday: "Drunk pedestrians can cause problems. It is the extent of that problem that we are looking at in the report."

He said the department had no plans to target intoxicated walkers with commercials. "We are still urging drivers to leave their cars at home if they plan to drink. Drunk drivers have the greatest potential for causing loss of life on the roads," he said.

A television commercial, thought to be the toughest used so far, will be broadcast for the first time tonight. It will spearhead the annual anti-drink-drive campaign, which will be launched today by Kenneth Carlisle, the roads and traffic minister. The campaign is, once again, being

conducted under the banner: "Drinking and driving wrecks lives."

Statistics support the government's view that the repeated campaigns are having a big effect on driver attitudes. In the last ten years, deaths caused by drink-driving have plummeted from 1,500 a year to 700.

Far more motorists are being breathalysed, but the failure rate has fallen sharply. In 1980, about one-third of those tested were found to be over the legal drink-drive limit. Currently, the failure rate is only about one in ten.

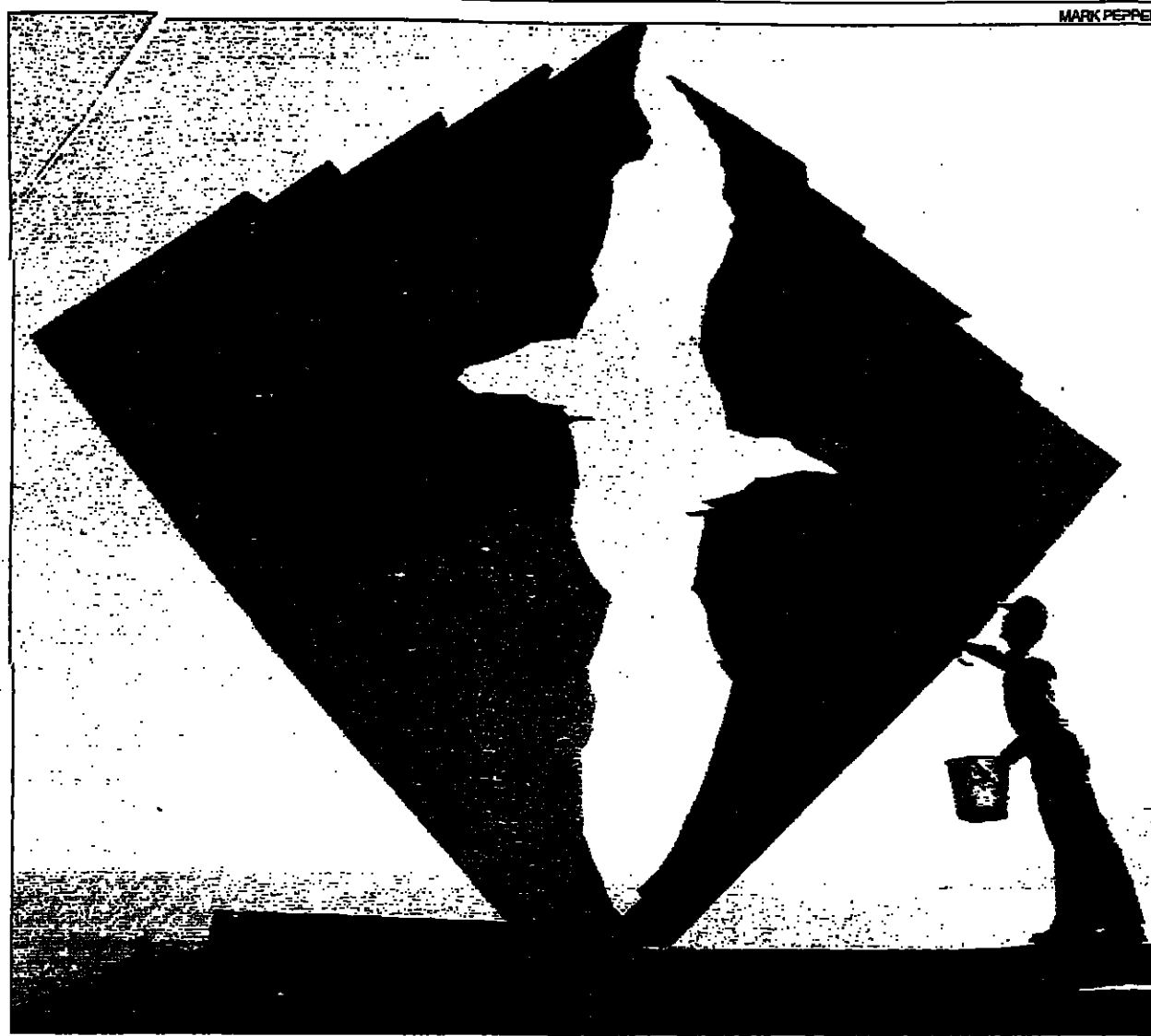
It is now no longer the young drivers who are seen to be most susceptible to the temptation to drink and drive. The campaigns now tend to be aimed primarily at the 25-40 age group.

Some of those convicted of drink-driving offences this Christmas could be offered the chance to attend new rehabilitation courses, which were announced by Mr Carlisle last week. These satisfactorily attending all sessions of their course could be eligible for a reduction of up to a quarter in their disqualification period.

The popularity and promotion of low-alcohol and non-alcoholic drinks has also played a part in reducing the incidence of drinking and driving, the government says.

Lately, there has been a growing trend in Britain towards teetotalism. In the past seven years, the number of people who have given up alcohol has increased by 20 per cent, according to a survey of 20,000 people for the Anvar Insurance Company, of Eastbourne, East Sussex, which provides insurance exclusively for non-drinkers.

Around 7.7 million adults in the UK, or almost one in five, say they drink no alcohol at all, the survey found, with London containing the highest number of teetotalers. Those most likely to abstain are aged 25 to 34, give up for health reasons, and belong to the middle-class AB bracket, it concluded.



Ready for launch: Emilio Alarcon, Cape Horn lighthouse keeper, putting final touches to the memorial

Cape Horn sailors honour comrades

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL AT CAPE HORN

A GROUP of Cape Horn veterans from around the world revisited the cape during the weekend to inaugurate a memorial to the hundreds of seamen who have died there over the centuries. Led by Captain Jean Perdrant, president of the Cape Horners' Association, they stepped ashore for the first time on the island they had feared most in their seafaring days.

The memorial, a 20ft multi-layered steel sculpture, is set on a hill close to the 1,000ft headland that marks the southern limit of the American continent. It depicts an albatross gliding over the southern ocean. Designed by José Balcells Eyquem, professor of architecture at the University of Valparaíso, it was one of 37 designs submitted by sculptors for a competition judged by the Chilean navy.

Many of those present found it hard to believe the sunny, warm conditions at the cape which had allowed the ten British Steel Challenge yachts to round the Horn safely last week, en route for Tasmania. "I'm glad my family are not here. I've been boring them for 43

years with tales of our fight to round this cape against mountainous seas and they would never believe me again," Bob Russell, from Australia, said.

Admiral Bruna Greene, who captained the Chilean navy's sail training ship *Esmeralda* around the world in 1988, said: "The day we sailed round began very much like this, but, within three hours, the winds had built up to 83 knots. Every sail was torn and many of the wooden hoops holding them to the mast broke away. It was a horrific experience."

"These conditions are freak," one old Cape Horner said. "I have looked up our statistics for December and it says there is only a 1 per cent chance of calms. It is normally blowing a full gale here."

The Cape Horners' Association, based in St Malo, France, is open only to those who have rounded the Horn under sail in a commercial ship. "We are a dying breed," Mr Russell said. "Two years ago we were 700-strong. Now membership is down to about 400."

British Steel Challenge page 20

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Bus firm sues over numbers

By PAUL WILKINSON

IN THE cut-throat world of deregulated bus services, even the number on the front of the vehicle can be the basis for a battle between rival operators. A dispute in South Yorkshire over the right to route numbers is expected to end in the High Court sometime next summer.

The South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive is suing four private operators, claiming that they are stealing its passengers by using the same route numbers as the executive's buses.

"It all comes down to whether the numbers on the buses are the trademark of the operator," Richard Boardman, the Leeds solicitor handling the action, said. "There was no problem before deregulation. A No 9 bus went where a No 9 bus always went, but now anyone can buy a second-hand bus, stick No 9 on it and go where they want."

The executive has already been granted an interim injunction covering 11 of its routes. It wants a permanent ban.

999 merger 'would help efficiency'

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE three emergency services should be merged into one organisation to cut costs and improve efficiency, according to a report published today by a right-wing think-tank.

The overhaul is required because the police, fire and ambulance 999 services are out of date and need to be modernised to face the challenges of the next century, said the study. A joint emergency control centre would eliminate delay and inaccuracy caused by having separate command centres for each service in each area. Individual control centres for police, fire and ambulance 999 services would be replaced by a system in which all emergency calls would be handled by one unit.

At present, a caller dialling 999 is connected to the BT emergency switchboard and then asked which service is needed before being connected to the police, fire or ambulance control room. The report says the existing system is out of date and is a result of the failure of politicians to accept the need for change.

□ 999 Emergency (The Adam Smith Institute, 23 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BL; £15)

Quest for perfect physique backfires

Bodybuilding drugs change husbands into raging bulls

BY JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of women are turning to a support group after suffering mental and physical abuse from men taking bodybuilding drugs.

The Anabolic Steroid Wives' Association has been inundated with requests for help and counselling because men taking hormone drugs to improve their physiques or sporting performances frequently become psychologically unbalanced and even violent.

Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat MP, is particularly concerned at the social harm caused by individuals taking anabolic steroids. He is hoping to get an early second reading of his private member's bill, which would make it a criminal offence to possess the drugs without a medical prescription.



Lambert: women need to know they are not alone

At the moment, it is only an offence to sell them. The association was founded by Sherry Lambert, a telephone sales manager from Preston, Lancashire, whose personal experience persuaded her that other women might want to share their worries.

One typical case history on Ms Lambert's files concerns a woman living with her boyfriend, a divorced father of five. The relationship was harmonious at first. However, her boyfriend's interest in strength became obsessive. He closed his small printing business because it interfered with his training. He became irritable, and prone to outbursts of anger, such as throwing cups of coffee.

On one occasion when out shopping, his girlfriend asked him for £2. He responded by

sweeping his arm along racks of clothes, flinging them to the floor. The woman, who asked not to be identified, said: "He pulled food off the shelves and then ran into the street and threw my shopping in the air." She described his behaviour as that of a "raging bull".

On another occasion, she returned to find the house in a shambles, with broken plates on the kitchen floor, doors ripped off their hinges and the washing machine dented. "I found the kids hiding upstairs. 'What has happened?' I asked them. One replied, 'Dad's gym kit was not dry and there is no tuna fish in the house'."

The woman says she learnt not to argue. "Although he never once hurt me or the children, it was best to humour him. At first I racked my brains to figure out why he was behaving like this." Then she remembered him swallowing tablets. She searched the house and found the hormone drugs, something he had said he never took.

His sex drive was intense when he first began taking anabolic steroids, but eventually it was suppressed because high dosages ultimately have a weakening effect on libido.

The cost of the drugs, which bodybuilders buy on a thriving black market and often take in high dosages together with vast quantities of food, had been funded through her own job. She often had to work long hours to meet the bills. Nevertheless, she dreaded returning home, sometimes passing the house several times before summoning up courage to enter. She eventually moved out.

When Ms Lambert, 32, set up the association, she began receiving several hundred letters from wives or girlfriends, some of whom feel they are prisoners in their own homes. One mother from Newcastle wrote: "I do not know which way to turn. I have three children, no money and constantly undergo mental and physical torture."

Most of the letters come from the wives of bodybuilders but some are from the partners of sportsmen, such as boxers or athletes. Many of the letters tell of physical abuse. Ms Lambert says that the women are comforted by hav-

ing a confidante. "I try wherever possible to link wives into a communication network in their own area." She also refers them for professional help and next year wants to extend the debate by speaking at universities and local sports councils.

The University of London's psychology department has found that indiscriminate taking of anabolic steroids can cause personality changes. Recent academic work has followed court cases in which convicted criminals have taken hormone drugs.

John Steed, the M4 rapist and bodybuilder, who in 1986 was convicted of killing a prostitute in central London. Christopher Snarski, who was imprisoned for 12 years last March after setting fire to his house and letting his two children burn to death inside. Snarski claimed that he was psychologically dependent on anabolic steroids.

Det Carol Bristow, who until 1990 was head of Scot-

land Yard's sexual offences unit, has established a link between the drugs and sex crimes after examining these and several other cases.

In the United States, where an estimated million people, including 250,000 high school students, take hormone drugs, Dr Harrison Pope and Dr David Katz, two psychiatrists at the Harvard Medical School, have made a detailed survey of individuals taking anabolic steroids.

Dr Pope said: "We were surprised that so many of our subjects described the same side effects, including irritability and increased aggression."

As the woman in Ms Lambert's case history, says: "When I was experiencing the effects of an anabolic steroid user I found it impossible to explain the situation to a non-user's wife or ordinary person. I felt alone, had nobody to talk to, nobody who understood the animal rages, sometimes hourly, with which I had to live."



Taking off: Katherine Higgins of Christie's with a Thunderbird 3 model built for the 1960s television series. Rocketing interest has pushed up the estimate at the December 17 auction to £1,500



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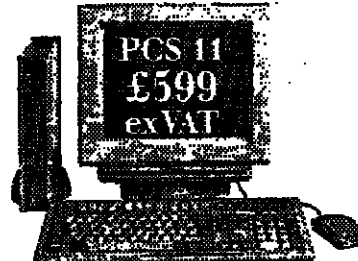
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Cardiff Three fight murder conviction

THREE Cardiff men serving life sentences for the murder of a young prostitute will have their case re-examined by the Court of Appeal today.

Their lawyers believe new evidence points to a miscarriage of justice, the latest in a series of embarrassing mistakes for the legal system. Supporters of the "Cardiff Three" have mounted a long campaign to overturn the verdicts, with the backing of Liberty, the pressure group for criminal justice reform.

Tony Paris, 35, Yusuf Abdullahi, 30, and Stephen Miller, 26, have protested their innocence since they were jailed in November 1990 after Britain's longest murder trial. A jury at Swansea Crown Court convicted them of murdering Lynette White, 20, who was found hacked to death on St Valentine's day 1988 in a flat in Cardiff where she took clients.

The way it isn't



David Bowie Has become a bit showy: it's not very mellow To reply 'Yes' to 'Hello'

Kelvin Mackenzie Is a man close to frenzy: He can't get enough Of royals in the buff.

Shirley MacLaine Says: "I simply can't explain!"

I've lived so many times before Yet I keep coming back as a bore."

Peter Carter-Ruck Is down on his luck: For a digestive biscuit, a short chat and a cup of tea He can charge only £2,986.55 + VAT.

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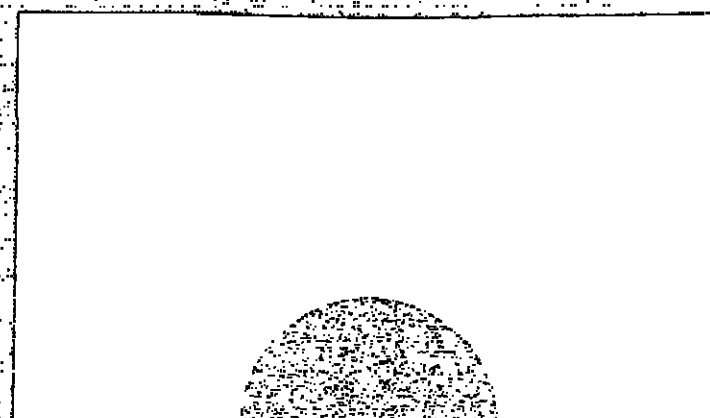
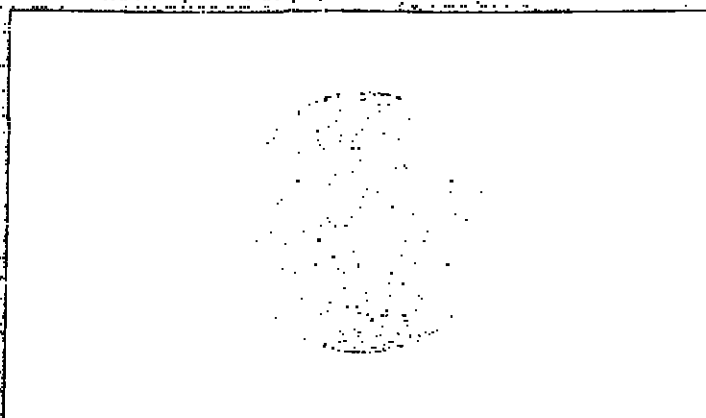
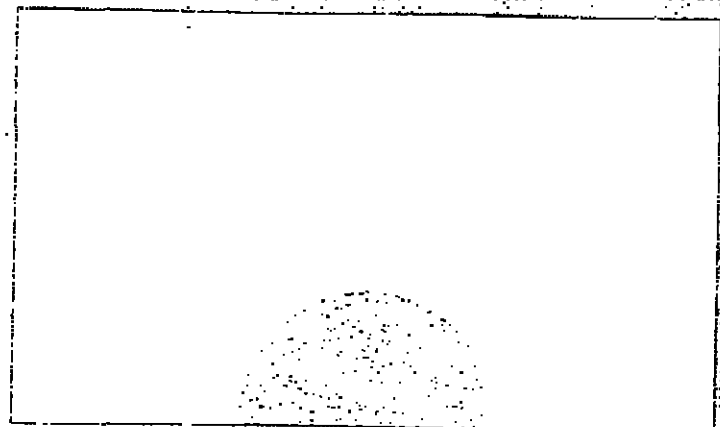
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GNVQ courses have been designed to evolve. They'll change as new information and more modern techniques become available. (So no time is wasted on the irrelevant or outmoded.) The courses will also provide an ideal springboard for higher education and other full professional qualifications.

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Serb attacks push Britain into the thick of war in Bosnia

■ While the West agonises over armed intervention, its troops are forced to fight

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN KISELJAK

THE bark of a dog, the thwack of an axe cutting firewood, the crack of automatic gunfire somewhere over the hill. In this bizarre landscape, a perilous mix of rural idyll and battlefield, British UN troops tread a delicate path through a minefield of conflicting local demands and expectations.

Poorly armed Bosnian and Croat fighters can only look on in wonder at the thundering procession of armoured Scimitar and Warrior vehicles as they rumble around the war zone. Their frustration turns to anger as their calls for the British troops to blast the Serbs in the hills are refused.

So far, for however much politicians in Whitehall bluster and prevaricate, all the evidence here on the ground points towards greater military intervention. Greater, because de facto military intervention is already taking place.

Officers insist that their UN mandate covers only the escort and facilitating of aid convoys. They say UN troops are not

here as a Western strike force. But a mandate is in the eye of the beholder. Patience with Serb tactics of continual harassment and obstruction of aid convoys is wearing thin, both in Bosnia and New York.

United Nations troops may have to move beyond impartial peacekeeping, Boutros Boutros Ghali, its secretary-general, said last month. "They may become party to a conflict with whoever tries to block, rob or destroy the convoys they are protecting".

In effect this is already happening. True, this is not yet Operation Balkan Storm, an all-out assault aimed at destroying the Serb government and armed forces. But there is a huge difference in approach between the operations of the British UN troops in central Bosnia and their virtually impotent — by their general's own admission — colleagues bunkered down in Sarajevo.

British troops have already returned fire. Soldiers and officers serving here make it clear that none would hesitate



Family's despair: a Bosnian mother and son crying over the father's grave in Sarajevo, where the suburb of Otes was said to have fallen to the Serbs

to shoot back if fired upon and they can identify the target. They also say they will not stand idly by and watch atrocities taking place.

Under Colonel Bob Stewart, British soldiers are taking a high-profile aggressive ap-

proach that takes them as far as they can up to the Serb front lines, even though they are likely to attract fire. Operations must be approved by the UN high command at Kiseljak, outside Sarajevo, but Colonel Stewart has a high degree

of autonomy. The events of last week, when Serb gunners let loose artillery at a convoy of Warriors in the frontline town of Turbe, show that the British presence attracts targeted, as opposed to indirect, fire.

Warriors patrol Turbe four or five times a week. There are no aid convoys to the war-ravaged town, so why bother going there? Officers describe the strategy as carrying out "an implied task", pushing out as far as possible in every direction, reconnoitring and

gathering as much intelligence as possible. All of which will be of vital use in the event of a full-scale military intervention. Should Turbe fall, Serb forces will be poised at the gates of Travnik, just ten miles

from Vitez and the British base. If Travnik falls, and then Vitez, the British contingent will not leave.

Pressure is building in the West, and now the Middle East, for full-scale intervention. United Nations officers refuse to say on the record whether they would like their mandate altered so they could force aid convoys through to the starving and freezing of Bosnia, instead of negotiating passage. Privately, though, many are furious at the difficulties and obstructions they say the Serbs continually place in their way. Trigger fingers, even UN ones, are getting itchy.

In Sarajevo, General Hussein Ali Abdul Razek of Egypt said on Saturday that UN efforts there have "completely failed". In his opinion he said the UN must show it intends to intervene and stop the war. He also demanded that those responsible must be put on trial.

If and when that happens, the British contingent, backed up by the biggest concentration of armour in Bosnia, is already deployed. So are their Spanish colleagues in Mostar in the southwest, the French in Bihać, the northwest, the Canadians in Banja Luka in the north, and the mixed force in Sarajevo.

Ban on candidacy of Panic upheld

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

SERBIA'S electoral commission upheld its ban on the candidature of Milan Panic, the Yugoslav prime minister, for the Serbian presidency. On Friday the commission had ruled that Mr Panic, the only serious challenger to Slobodan Milosevic, was ineligible to run because he had not lived in Serbia long enough.

On Saturday the ruling was overturned by the Supreme Court but yesterday this judgment was itself rejected by the electoral commission. Mr Panic, a Serbian-American businessman, returned from California in the summer to take up his current post.

Yesterday's decision cast further doubt on whether the opposition would participate in the December 20 poll. Earlier, opposition leaders had debated whether to withdraw from the race immediately or to wait until the courts gave a final decision on whether Mr Panic could run. Some leaders argued that they should in any case boycott the poll because of alleged irregularities. Sources within the main opposition party, the Serbian Renewal Movement, claim that as many as 30 per cent of people believed to be

opposition supporters have had their names mysteriously removed from the electoral register.

Although sanctions are being more closely monitored, petrol remains freely available and cheap in Serbia. Trade unions have been given foodstuffs from the state reserves to distribute to their members at low prices. Fines for late payment of rents and of electricity and telephone bills have been suspended. The opposition claims that all this amounts to bribery by the ruling Socialist party to secure re-election.

In Pristina, the capital of the overwhelmingly ethnic Albanian southern Serbian province of Kosovo, the foundation stone for the largest Orthodox cathedral in the Balkans was laid yesterday.

One of the candidates in the province's elections, which are to be boycotted by the ethnic Albanians, is a Serb militia leader known by his nom de guerre "Arkan". The paramilitary group run by Arkan gained a fearsome reputation during fighting in Croatia and eastern Bosnia and his name is frequently mentioned by human rights groups in the context of war crimes trials.

Oil tanker captain is bailed

Madrid: The captain of the Greek registered tanker, the *Aegean Sea*, that ran aground, caught fire and lost 79,000 tons of oil off La Coruña, in northwest Spain, was released on £6,000 bail at the weekend (Edward Owen writes). Ecologists say that nearly 80 miles of shore, including valuable shellfish beds, were contaminated after Thursday's accident.

John Bennett, for Greenpeace, said the ecological damage at La Coruña was twice as bad as that caused by Exxon Valdez in Alaska.

Whites warned

Johannesburg: Sabella Palma, commander of the militant Azanian Peoples Liberation Army, gave a warning that attacks on "soft" white South African targets, such as that on a golf club last week, would be increased.

Bentsen tipped

Washington: Bill Clinton, the US president-elect, is expected to name Lloyd Bentsen, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, as his Treasury secretary this week and Roger Altman, an investment banker, as his deputy.

Britons well

Amman: British diplomats here report that both Paul Rife and Michael Wainwright, the Britons jailed for illegally entering Iraq, have been visited in jail in Baghdad and were well. (Reuters)

German march

Munich: About 250,000 Germans with candles protested against racist attacks on foreigners by right-wing gangs after an apartment fire killed a Croatian worker. (Reuters)

Troops fail to cross front line

By ADAM LEBOR

BRITISH troops yesterday were still trying to cross the Serbian front line to meet a United Nations aid convoy attempting to reach the Muslim-controlled town of Tuzla from Belgrade.

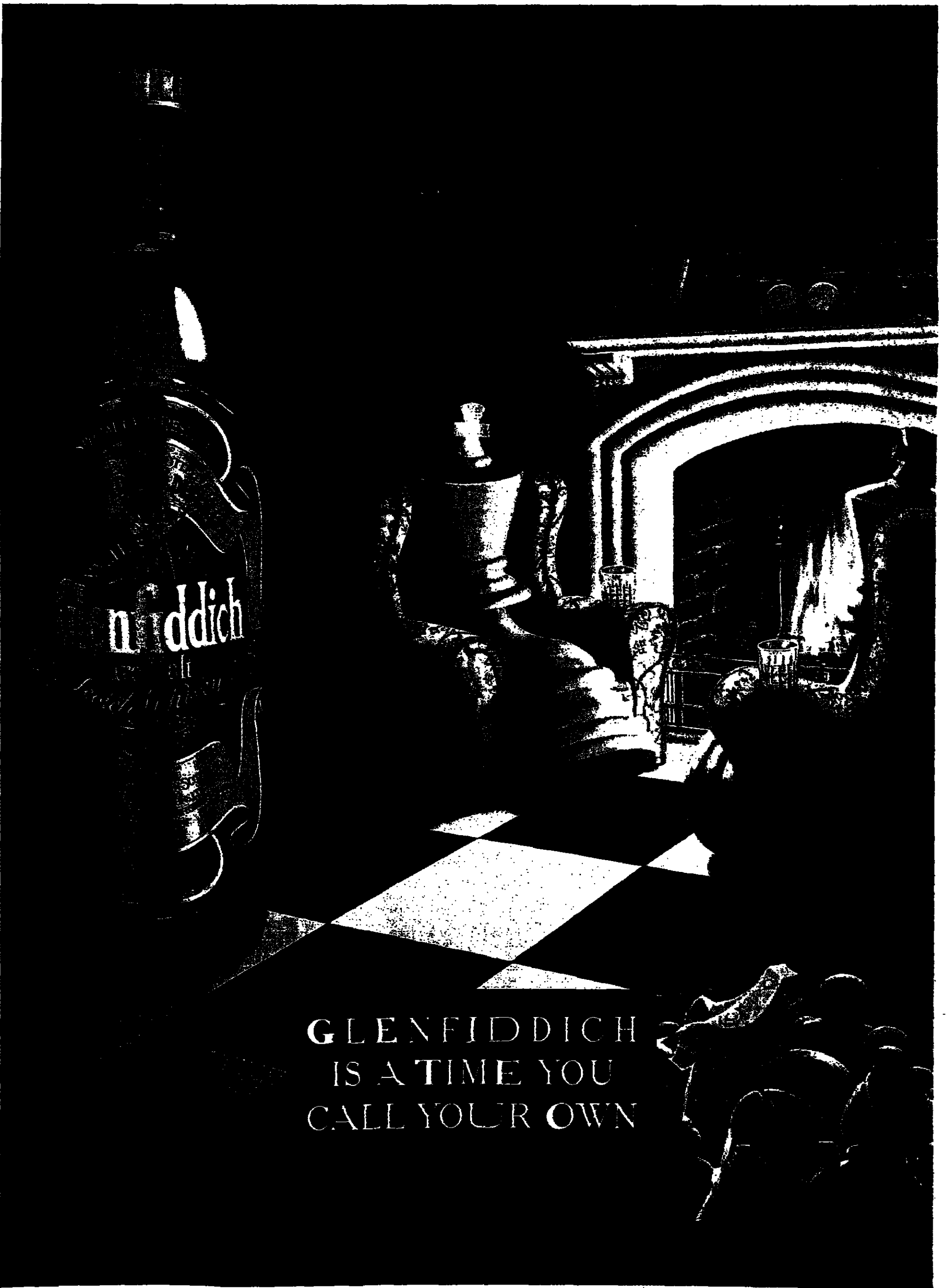
The convoy of eight Scimitar and four Warrior armoured vehicles was forced to turn back on Saturday after it came under fire from Serb forces as it attempted to cross no man's land at the front line. It was also delayed by a minefield laid by Croat forces fighting in Bosnia.

British officers said that if the convoy was fired at yesterday they would return fire. "One assumes it was the Serb side," said Major Alan Abraham of the 9th/12th Lancers. "The Bosnians have given us their word that they will not hinder our activities."

The UN aid convoy is attempting to open a new route from Belgrade to Tuzla, one of the biggest cities still under Bosnian control, that avoids the hazardous mountain roads by approaching from the Serb side. The British plan is for the armoured vehicles to cross the Serb front lines several times to meet the aid convoy and bring it into Muslim territory, to escort the lorries out again and to return to Muslim territory.

"If we are successful and can open this corridor, we will be able to run regular convoys from Belgrade," said Major Martin Waters at the British headquarters in Vitez.

The strategy of sending the UN armoured escort across the front line is an attempt to avoid the aid convoy being held up, often by crowds of angry Serb women. It is also indicative of a new forcefulness by the UN in trying to get aid to the freezing and hungry Bosnian Muslims.



Countdown to the Edinburgh summit: further flaws emerge in grand European designs

Swiss voters rebuff common market pact and opt for isolation

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS AND ALAN MCGREGOR IN GENEVA

SWISS voters had chosen isolation in rejecting a Europe-wide common market in yesterday's referendum, Frans Andriessen, the European Community's external relations chief, said. He ruled out negotiating bilaterally the trade terms the pact would have conferred.

"I have to say that the Swiss people have opted for isolation," Mr Andriessen, who conducted negotiations on the European Economic Area (EEA) with the seven-nation European Free Trade Association (Efta), told reporters after the results of the Swiss popular vote became known. "A country that has chosen isolation cannot expect that we can do in a bilateral accord what they have rejected on the multilateral level," he added.

The Swiss will almost certainly withdraw their application for EC membership. Standing aloof from the rest of Europe is central to Swiss history and identity. Although the stubborn Swiss refusal to take even half a step towards European integration was not a surprise, the vote is yet another piece of bad news for grand European designs.

Eighteen of the 26 semi-independent cantons refused to endorse the government's

application for EEA membership, although about half the voters approved of it. The turnout, more than 80 per cent of the 4.5 million eligible to vote, set an all-time record.

The German and Italian-speaking areas, including Zurich and Bern, voted solidly against the EEA; French-speaking Suisse Romande, on the other hand, returned big majorities in its favour.

But yesterday's vote may turn out to be only a delay in both the creation of the EEA and in Switzerland's very slow turn towards the outside world. Switzerland is not interested in holding the treaty hostage until the accord is changed and the treaty is anyway designed to protect the majority from that threat. The Swiss will not cause its Efta partners the legal and political agonies which the reluctant Danes are inflicting on their partners in the Maastricht treaty.

The EEA treaty, signed last spring and now unlikely to come into force before next summer, contains a protocol allowing the other states to put the accord into effect without the ratification of one or two states. Two countries are now likely to drop out of the projected free trade zone since

the 30,000 people of Lichtenstein are expected to follow the Swiss lead in their referendum on next week. A conference of all governments is needed to restart the treaty.

The treaty extends the EC's single market laws on the free movement of capital, goods, services and people to all 19 states, with judicial and political machinery heavily weighted in the EC's favour. The seven Efta states agreed to pay nearly \$4 billion to the EC's poorest states; the reduction of this "membership fee" after Switzerland's contribution has been taken out may prove controversial with the Spanish government.

Although the wording of the treaty allows the rest to forge ahead, the Swiss hesitation will bolster the anti-EC forces in the four states which are at the head of the queue for EC membership: Austria, Sweden, Finland and Norway. The Swiss have "once again proved themselves cleverer in that they will not accept the EEA as an expensive waiting room" for EC membership, Jorg Haider, the Austrian nationalist leader, said last night.

As western Europe's squabbling introspection worsens, some governments on the fringe of the EC may be tempted to abandon hopes for an interim single market and concentrate on joining the club that matters most to their economies and getting fully inside the EC. But the EEA scheme, unwieldy and temporary although it is, retains some advantages. If the treaty comes into effect, the economic side of membership negotiations with these small, rich states, is already complete. Talks with the EC will then be about the EC's side of membership negotiations with these small, rich states, is already complete. Talks with the EC will then be about the EC's side of membership negotiations with these small, rich states, is already complete.

The door will be left open to Switzerland. The country earns half of its national revenue from external trade and in the past two decades the share of its exports with the EC has risen while the share sent to the rest of the world has dropped. Ingenious and energetic as Swiss exporters are, they face huge difficulties outside what will be the world's largest free-trade area.

Anti-treaty campaigners claimed that Switzerland should not sell its birthright of local democracy and independence for mere export opportunities. The losses caused by self-exclusion from the EEA can be made good, they claim, by deregulation and greater efficiency, and Switzerland can become an alpine Hong Kong. The defeated pro-treaty forces say they risk turning the country into a European Nepal.

Summit build-up, page 1
Leading article, page 15



Flagging the summit: a youngster is carried aloft through the streets of Edinburgh as the city prepares to play host to Europe's leaders

EC summit to focus on saving battered treaty

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

EVEN before last night's blow from the Swiss referendum, the European Community summit this week looked like an event with a flaw. The leaders who arrive in Edinburgh on Thursday evening will, as Community tradition demands, avoid referring to the item missing from their agenda: monetary union.

A year ago, ministers at Maastricht were fretting about the fine print and final bargaining on the rules and timetable needed to create a single European currency before the century's end. In Edinburgh they will barely mention the subject, soured by this autumn's turmoil in the money markets. None of them could hope to agree on any reforms of the exchange-rate mechanism, and none want to give currency dealers any excuse to test the strength of the system any further. The timetable for monetary union has been shot to pieces by recession and public rebellion.

Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, said a year ago that the Maastricht treaty must set an unbreakable calendar for monetary union and set up a common foreign policy. Now M Delors' agenda already has an antiquated ring. In Edinburgh, the assembled prime ministers will pledge their continued faith to a treaty which may never be implemented because of ratification



problems in Britain and Denmark and whose centrepiece, an irreversible single currency programme, now not only does not apply to the British and the Danes but is also rejected by the Germans and the Dutch.

Regular declarations of belief in the Maastricht treaty by the governments which signed it are becoming a ritual. The call for speedy ratification at Edinburgh will be odder than most because John Major is suspected of never having liked the document or wanted it written. "The game at Edinburgh is saving the treaty, irrespective of the contents," said one British official. The *New York Times* last week quoted a senior British official as predicting that even if the treaty was formally ratified, "most of the provisions will clearly never happen".

With European governments mired in recession, saving the present battered version of the treaty is still preferred to any form of re-

negotiation. The summit will turn on whether the leaders can agree on a special status in the treaty for Denmark and on how that offer goes down with the Danes.

Much depends on Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor. If Herr Kohl backs the complex legal formula for Danish opt-outs, opposition will probably melt away. But the pivotal decisions will be taken by two Danish party leaders who are not members of the government and will not be in Edinburgh. Without an approving nod from Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, leader of the Social Democrats, and from Holger Nielsen, leader of the Socialist People's party, no second Danish referendum on Maastricht is likely to resuscitate the treaty.

If the Danish debate goes well, the prospects for settling a five-year EC budget will rise. Much of the detail is drafted and outstanding disputes have to be settled by high-level political decision. The key decision lies with Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish prime minister, who can either break up the summit in the hope of winning larger but delayed subsidy or compromise and have the money sooner.

Mr Major can already claim one success: Britain, Denmark and Germany have successfully insisted that talks to take Austria, Sweden, Finland and Norway into the EC can start early next year. But what kind of Community they will enter remains unclear.

Spain and Portugal unite against proposed cash cuts

FROM MARTHA DE LA CAL IN LISBON

PORTUGAL and Spain will present a solid front at the European Community summit in Edinburgh this week against John Major's proposal to limit funds for the less developed countries of Portugal, Spain, Greece and the Republic of Ireland as sought by Jacques Delors, the European Commission president.

At the seventh Iberian summit meeting over the weekend in Funchal, Madeira, Anibal Cavaco Silva, the Portuguese prime minister, and Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish premier, said that unless the cohesion funds and increased structural funds were agreed on they would oppose any enlargement of the Community. Senhor Silva said: "It is no secret that Spain and Portugal consider the proposal presented by Great Britain unacceptable. It is unrealistic and in contradiction to the objectives we agreed on in Maastricht." He said that enlargement, financial programmes, the ratification of the Maastricht, and subsidiarity were all linked. "Portugal and Spain want concrete evidence that they will be put into practice in letter and spirit," he said.

The Spanish prime minister said a generous economic package would reactivate the move toward European Union. "A reasonable cohesion policy will benefit not only

the countries in question, but also all of the entire Community." Both leaders declared themselves clearly against a renegotiation of the Maastricht treaty.

The prime ministers also called for more aid for offshore islands such as Portugal's Madeira and the Azores and Spain's Canaries, which they referred to as "ultra-peripheral" regions. All of their economies suffer from the high cost of transporting their products.

The two countries discussed ways to combat crime, pollution, drugs, the laundering of money, and they agreed to cooperate in police investigations. One of their biggest concerns is the free movement of people from January 1. The immigration of tens of thousands of persons from Portugal's former African territories and from Latin America, great numbers of whom move to Spain to work, has been a bone of contention between the two countries. Spain has urged Portugal to cut off the flow. Two agreements will be signed in February to increase security.

□ **Leader steps down:** Alvaro Cunhal, 79, leader of the Portuguese Communist party for the past 30 years, stepped down last night in favour of Carlos Carvalho, 50, the party's candidate for president in the last elections.

Subsidiarity fight 'destined to fail'

BY MICHAEL DYNES, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

ATTEMPTS to tame the Brussels bureaucracy at the Edinburgh summit this week and prevent the drift towards a European "superstate" will end in failure, according to a report published today.

Britain's belief that further encroachments on the powers of national parliaments will be stopped by implementing the principle of subsidiarity, a doctrine setting out limits on the role of central institutions, is fatally flawed and could even prove counter-productive, the report says.

Proposals to make the European Court of Justice decide whether particular legislative

initiatives should be the responsibility of European Community or national authorities could, moreover, bog the EC down in expensive and time-consuming legal challenges, the report adds.

Published by the European Policy Forum, a newly established think-tank dedicated to "British and European market studies", the report, *Subsidiarity: No Panacea*, has been timed to focus attention on the subsidiarity debate in the run-up to the Edinburgh summit.

In Britain subsidiarity is understood to mean that laws should only be made at EC level if the national authorities are incapable of effective action. But no attempt has ever been made to define what is meant by "effective action", the report says.

Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, for example, sees subsidiarity as administrative devolution. "Under this conception," the report says, "national and local governments and parliaments are, in areas where the Community decides to act, little more than agents of Brussels endowed with a modicum of discretion."



Delors: subsidiarity seen as devolution

Conservatives turn attack on Gaidar

Embattled Yeltsin holds critics at bay

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin narrowly survived an attempt by Russia's highest legislature to curb his powers as leader at the weekend when a key vote aimed at stripping him of the right to appoint his own ministers failed by just four votes.

Three other amendments opposed by Mr Yeltsin and his reformers were passed by the Congress of People's Deputies, all strengthening the power of the conservative parliament over the radical government. The result of the vote on the most important amendment is far too close for Mr Yeltsin's comfort and has fuelled the confidence of opponents of reform in the Congress before today's expected big clash over the confirmation in office of Yegor Gaidar, the radical acting prime minister.

The scale of opposition makes Mr Gaidar's future uncertain. His fate is seen as

the last big fight of this Congress, and many liberals are pessimistic about his chances of surviving the ravages of hardliners who are in confident mood after Saturday's near-miss assault on reform. Aleksandr Shokhin, a deputy prime minister, said that he thought the chances of Mr Gaidar being confirmed in office were "very slight". Congress will take out its frustration at losing the constitutional vote on the acting prime minister.

Igor Golobovskiy, editor of the liberal daily *Izvestia* said that he "gazed in despair upon Congress", whose intransigence he said would mean a delay or even a reversal to Russian reform. "This is a massive attack from the conservative flank," he said. "The issue is not Mr Gaidar but the whole political future. He is the focal point for the whole effort of reform and if he is ousted now it will not be the result of a compromise by the government but of its defeat."

Behind-the-scenes negotiations between the government and the centre-right Civic Union, intended to help to achieve Mr Gaidar's re-election, were held at the weekend.

Deputies gasped as the results of Saturday's vote flashed up on the giant score-board, the conservatives amazed at their success in grinding down the government's margin of

support, the liberals horrified by the swing by centre-right participants to the headline position of outright hostility to Mr Yeltsin. This was a highly personal vote against Mr Yeltsin and Russian Khasbulatov, the conservative chairman, told him angrily: "Draw your own conclusions from this result. If you continue to strive for absolute rule, this pyrrhic victory will be your last and it will lead to the destruction of the country."

The number of deputies who voted to curb Mr Yeltsin's powers, 690, was just short of the two-thirds majority required for constitutional changes, but showed there is sufficient opposition to impede the confirmation of Mr Gaidar, who needs more than 50 per cent of the votes to keep his job. The president's right to choose his own government is essential to the continuation of the Western-backed reforms against energetic opposition from those who believe that Russia needs a return to state control of the economy and intervention to prop up its ailing industries.

Mr Yeltsin's aides had indicated that he would have called a referendum on abolishing the Congress had the vote been passed and one close supporter, Father Gleb Yakunin, said that Mr Yeltsin had been prepared to introduce direct presidential rule immediately. "This was the

peak of the battle between the forces of progress and regress," said Fr Yakunin. "We are happy to have survived the vote but the signs are not encouraging for the future of reform."

Although the conservatives lost the most important vote, deputies voted for other amendments unacceptable to the reformers, calling for the indexing of wages and farm prices, changes to the privatisation programme and parliamentary control over foreign borrowing.

Deputies also rejected a request by Mr Yeltsin to delete articles in their resolution declaring that the work of the government was unsatisfactory and contradicted the interests of most Russians — a clear anti-reform message. The government has now given up all hope of swinging the truculent deputies behind it and it is simply struggling to get through to the end of the assembly tomorrow with the minimum of damage to its policies and cabinet.

Reflecting on the weekend's events, Andrei Nekhayev, the economics minister, summed up the reformers' gloom laced with relief that their platform had survived at all after a disastrous Congress: "I'm about as happy as you can be when you have fallen into a swamp but still not drowned."

UN attack, page 33

Democracy takes wraps off sex scandals

FROM ROGER BOYES
EAST EUROPE
CORRESPONDENT

RUSSIA'S Congress of People's Deputies is finding that democracy and sex go together like a horse and carriage. The speaker of the Russian parliament, the bull-necked nationalist Ruslan Khasbulatov, has been accused of seducing a young journalist called Daria Aslamova. The decisive move came after he apparently invited her up to see his pipe collection.

Miss Aslamova went for wide-ranging discussions and claims that she picked up several other deputies including the shrewd oppositionist Nikolai Travkin. "I love energetic men who dream of reshaping the world," said Miss Aslamova in the youth magazine *Sobesednik*.

In Poland, too, there is nothing quite as aphrodisiac as a parliamentary debate — ask those former communists who dodged out of the Chamber during tedious budget proceedings, allegedly to meet Anastazja Potocka to pursue more intimate discussions.

Sex and politics mixed freely under communist rule too — the wife of one hardline member of the Polish politburo caused a small scandal in the 1980s when she publicly complained about his mistress — but that was mainly kept under wraps. The party assumed that it was the moral as well as political beacon for society. Censored newspapers kept silent about political love affairs unless the man involved had to be discredited.



Lady's chamber: Daria Aslamova poses in her Moscow flat. She alleges that she was seduced by Ruslan Khasbulatov, Russia's parliamentary speaker

Sexual high jinks at the top are therefore not a novelty in Eastern Europe; the post-communist innovation is writing about them in the new tabloid press, and publishing kiss-and-tell books.

Both Miss Potocka — real name Marzena Domaros — and Miss Aslamova allegedly set out to seduce, or be seduced, and then publish. Miss Potocka, posing as a French journalist — French hacks seem somehow more attractive than Dutch or British — strode down the corridors of the Sejm apparently naked under a jacket secured with a single button. She claims to have made love to two deputies, to have been raped by a third and propositioned by dozens.

Miss Potocka claims that Leszek Miller, a leader of the former communists, was

most successful, treating her to an extravagant dinner at the parliamentary restaurant before taking her to bed.

Siefan Niesiolowski, however, a right-winger who has a bible on his desk and is campaigning to tighten the abortion laws, did not sleep with Miss Potocka but, she claims, showed in different ways that he was "obsessed with sex".

All these allegations are contained in Miss Potocka's best-selling memoirs. And most have been denied or shrugged off by those said to be involved. Sexual disclosures enhance rather than diminish reputation in post-communist society. The same goes for Miss Aslamova's revelations: the political image of both her alleged lovers has been boosted.

The first assumption about

Miss Aslamova's disclosures was that they were part of a plot to discredit two opponents of President Yeltsin. In Poland too there have been rumours about secret police involvement in kissing and telling. Who, after all, has an interest in advertising the sexual prowess of former Communists, and deriding the Catholic right? Whatever the motive — and the most likely remains commercial profit — the effect has been to increase interest in the parliamentary process. The widely held view that Russian, Polish and parliamentarians in other East European countries were idle time-servers who did little apart from yelling like schoolboys in the Chamber has now been dispelled. If these stories are true, the deputies in question have both energy and imagination.

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Militants bury hope of harmony in rubble of Indian mosque



Rao: told to uphold the rule of law

By COOMI KAPOOR IN DELHI AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Indian government last night imposed direct rule on the northern state of Uttar Pradesh after the destruction of a mosque in Ayodhya by rioting Hindu militants.

State-run television, quoting a government spokesman, announced that President Sharma had signed the order under constitutional provisions allowing for direct rule of a state where law and order had broken down. A statement quoted the president as telling P. V. Narasimha Rao the prime minister, "to initiate appropriate and expeditious steps to uphold the rule of law, the maintenance of public order and protection of all law abiding citizens".

President Sharma "deplored vandalism that has caused damage to the mosque in Ayodhya and has observed that such acts are absolutely against the doctrine and practices of Hinduism and all other great religions," it said.

■ BJP zealots have let the genie out of the bottle by encouraging Hindu extremism

community and Muslims who form about 11 per cent of India's population and who are resentful that the government could not ensure the safety of their shrine. Muslims fear that if the demand to hand over the Babri mosque in Ayodhya was conceded then Hindus would make claims for other disputed shrines which were once temples. The destruction of the mosque will also have serious repercussions for the Rao government, under criticism by a section of his own Congress (I) party for adopting a soft

approach towards the BJP demands for building a temple to the Hindu god-king Ram at the site of the mosque. The anti-Rao lobby in the Congress (I) led by Arjun Singh, the central minister for human resource development, has for some time been expressing its unhappiness over Mr Rao's conciliatory approach to the BJP at the expense of hurting the sentiments of India's 100 million Muslims and negating the secular traditions of the country and the party. It had demanded the dismissal of the

BJP state government in Uttar Pradesh.

The ruling Congress (I) government and the BJP were taken by surprise by yesterday's turn of events. Lal Krishna Advani, the BJP leader, had given an assurance to the Supreme Court and the Rao government that temple work would only be of a symbolic nature involving ceremonial rituals. The BJP leadership has, however, been clearly unable to defuse the temple dispute it had built up by playing to Hindu sentiment. The reins of the leadership over the temple agitation have passed on to a motley group of religious men.

Mr Singh's speedy resignation anticipated the imminent dismissal of his state govern-

ment by the Rao administration in Delhi for its failure to protect the Babri mosque. Mr Singh had on numerous occasions given a commitment to the government and the courts that the mosque structure would be protected and that he did not require additional assistance from central government forces.

The BJP has capitalised on temple-mosque controversy to woo Hindu voters. In 1991 the BJP swept to power in the state, the most populous in the country, by questioning why in a majority Hindu country a temple could not be built at the site where the god Ram was believed to have been born. However, there is little historical evidence to back the claim that Ram's birthplace was at

the Babri mosque site. The BJP recently renewed its campaign on the Ram temple controversy because it could not afford to be seen by its followers as reneging on its electoral promise to build the temple. The BJP's long-term strategy was to keep the issue on the boil, but it had not bargained that it would be unable to control the momentum of the movement and the passion it had aroused.

□ Srinagar: The body of H.N. Wanchoo, the Kashmiri human rights activist shot dead by unidentified gunmen, was cremated as a strike called by militant groups to mourn his death paralysed the Kashmir valley.

Mosque destroyed, page 1

Last-minute looting rife as US troops head for Somalia

FROM SAM KILEY IN BAIDOA

BANDS of gunmen have gone on a last-minute looting spree, ahead of the landing of US troops this week to restore law and order to Somalia.

The gunmen, convinced that the arrival of American soldiers, backed up by helicopter gunships, will end their extortion of aid agencies are now attacking the compounds of relief workers daily, forcing aid workers to move most of their staff in Baidoa city.

On Friday, security guards employed by the Australian wing of the Care aid agency, stole 96 million Somali shillings (£13,000) at gunpoint from the Care compound. The group, along with the International Committee of the Red Cross, handles most of the food aid brought in to Baidoa.

On Saturday night, gunmen again attempted to break into the compound. Yesterday morning a jeep mounted with a machinegun rammed the steel doors at the entrance to the camp. Locken Morrissey,

a former Australian soldier in charge of the Care project, said: "Mogadishu [the capital] may be the obvious place to send them more than Mogadishu. If they don't come in here bloody soon we shall be in very bad trouble."

Mr Morrissey has on occasions responded to attacks by gunmen with an equally robust reaction. Last week, he poured petrol on an invading armoured jeep and threatened to burn it with its occupants if it did not withdraw. It did so.

Aid agencies such as Care, the Red Cross and Irish Concern are particular targets of the looters because they have to keep large amounts of cash to pay thousands of dollars in airport landing fees and transport expenses for the tons of food brought in every day.

Similar looting has been attempted in Mogadishu recently but the anticipated arrival of American troops, and

the presence of armed Pakistani soldiers of the United Nations peacekeeping force at the airport, appear to have contained the worst excesses. Yesterday, 20,000 tons of food was moved out of the capital, marking the first shipment in three weeks.

Nobody in Baidoa knows how the American soldiers are to be deployed in Somalia, but aid workers agree that it is likely that troops will arrive in Baidoa by air from the Kenyan city of Mombasa at the same time as soldiers go ashore in Mogadishu. "If they don't come here at the same time as Mogadishu then we will be very exposed and are in great danger of being kidnapped by gunmen fleeing into the bush," Helen Fitzgerald, a volunteer nurse with the Irish agency Goel, said.

The agency, which has specialised in setting up feeding programmes in villages to try to stem the huge flow of refugees into Baidoa, was yesterday unable to operate south of the city because of the lawlessness. Kevin Hayes, Goel's local administrator, said: "If nurses went out into the villages at this time they could be cut off as a result of trouble in the town and there would be no way of getting them out."

While the situation in Baidoa is getting desperate, the atmosphere in Mogadishu is almost festive in anticipation of the arrival of American troops. Yesterday, General Muhammad Farrah Aidid's forces launched an assault on Baidoa, 110 miles south of Mogadishu, which is held by General Mohamed Hersi Morgan, the son-in-law of Somalia's ousted president, Mohamed Siad Barre. The movement of General Aidid's "regulars" has left the most venal and cowardly elements of his militia to plunder the local population and aid agencies in Baidoa.

□ Washington: Smith Hempstone, the US ambassador to Kenya, said yesterday that American troops in Somalia could face heavy casualties. US News and World Report reported: "If you liked Beirut, you will love Mogadishu," he was quoted as saying in a cable sent to the US State Department this month.

"I do not think Somalia is amenable to the quick-fix so beloved of Americans," his note said. "The one 'beneficial' effect a major American intrusion into Somalia is likely to have may be to reunite the Somali nation — against us," he said. (Reuters)



Welcome burden: Somalis unload rice donated by French schoolchildren. US troops will soon be deployed to help police the aid operation

China urged to discuss Patten reforms calmly

BY JAMES PRINGLE IN HONG KONG

COMMENTARY

CHINA was yesterday urged to discuss plans to extend democracy in Hong Kong rather than address the British colony through a megaphone. Sir Robin McLaren, the British ambassador to China, said that despite Peking's angry attacks on Chris Patten, Britain's relations with China remained good.

Arriving here for routine talks with Mr Patten, the Hong Kong governor, he said: "The important thing now is for the Chinese side to start to talk instead of addressing us through megaphone." He added that Mr Patten should stick to his policy "because the British government has extended firm and strong support".

Peking has condemned Mr Patten's plans to increase the number of directly-elected members of Hong Kong's Legislative Council before the colony's handover to China in 1997, and has threatened to tear up contracts made by Mr Patten's government when it takes power. The threats triggered a sharp fall on the stock market last week and calls by some stockbrokers for Mr Patten to resign for the sake of economic prosperity.

As a politician rather than a

civil servant, Mr Patten shows every sign of relishing the battle that he has provoked, although he could lose. He has, however, shown everyone the nature of the beast Hong Kong will have to deal with after 1997.

For some experts, above all Sir Percy Cradock, Margaret Thatcher's former chief adviser on China and Hong Kong, Mr Patten's proposals will only antagonise Peking and lead to a more repressive system "of indefinite duration". The Chinese leadership, as seen from the mass killings at Tiananmen Square, is pre-



Patten: relishing the battle he has started

pared to act ruthlessly when its interests are threatened.

Western suggestions that China will not hurt Hong Kong's prosperity because it is so important to Peking's long march to modernisation are no more than wishful thinking. Deng Xiaoping, the senior Chinese leader, or his successors, are quite capable of expelling en masse the population of Hong Kong after 1997 if they prove troublesome and repopulating the colony with people from the teeming province of Sichuan.

The main reason why the Chinese leaders are being so tough on Mr Patten is because they are afraid of his ideas. They fear that the notion of democracy could revive the mass movement that led to Tiananmen.

Although the expatriate Hong Kong stockbrokers believe Mr Patten has badly misread Peking, there are many in the colony who resent attempts by the stockbrokers to nestle up to China's authoritarian regime and write the agenda for Hong Kong.

The common view in the colony is that Mr Patten has the support of most of its residents. But Mr Patten, a keen poker and bridge player, will need all his nerve as the Chinese gerontocracy displays its ruthless nature.

Howls of protest at plan to cull wolves

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

OVER the past two centuries the native American grey wolf has been shot, poisoned and environmentally beleaguered to the point of extinction throughout the United States, with the notable exception of Alaska. There the thriving population is about 7,000 wolves, and the authorities want to start culling them.

Last month, the Alaska Board of Game approved a plan to shoot 300 wolves a year. The plan was aimed at augmenting herds of caribou and moose, in turn increasing the herds for hunters.

Walter Hickel, the governor of Alaska and a supporter of the proposed kill, was deluged with angry letters threatening to cancel holidays in the state. The Fish and Wildlife Service alone received some 9,000 letters, mostly angry. On Friday, the governor announced the kill would be indefinitely postponed and a "wolf sum-

mit" would be held in January, where conservationists would be invited to discuss the future of Alaska's wolves.

Mr Hickel and his colleagues could be forgiven for being surprised at the strength of the reaction. In the American public consciousness the wolf has recently transformed from a ravenous, indiscriminate killer to a symbol of the wild. Once seen as only marginally less pesky than the coyote, their numbers were drastically reduced by co-ordinated poisoning campaigns, while ranchers offered bounties for slain wolves. Many environmentalists now argue that the wolf plays a vital part in the food chain and in areas such as Yellowstone Park, where such predators have been virtually extinct for 50 years, the return of the wolf would help to regulate the overgrown herds of deer and elk.

UN leader hints at protectorate

BY JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND MICHAEL EVANS IN LONDON

The United Nations is considering a Cambodia-style transitional authority in Somalia if its warring factions cannot agree to work together to run the country.

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, said at the weekend that UN officials would soon start talks on national reconciliation with Somalia's rival warlords in the hope of creating a new Somali authority. But he said that if the warring factions cannot agree a transitional administration like that now overseeing the transition to democracy in Cambodia after years of civil war.

"Nothing has been decided," Dr Boutros Ghali said. "If they [the different factions] will begin to find a solution to promote a reconciliation then they can have their own administration. If they are not able to do this, then we will have to find a transitional authority." Dr Boutros Ghali plans to hold a preliminary meeting with rival Somali leaders early next month.

The creation of a Cambodia-style authority in Somalia could demand a much larger UN presence after the departure of the United States-led multinational force than the present plan for about 4,000 UN peacekeepers. More than 17,000 UN peacekeepers are stationed in Cambodia to prepare for UN-supervised elections next May, and thousands more UN staff are helping to register voters and run key government ministries.

Since the security council last week approved US-led military intervention in Somalia, Dr Boutros Ghali has said repeatedly that his main concern is not the deployment of the 30,000 troops but the rehabilitation of the country after they leave. He plans to establish a UN special fund for contributions to Somalia, believing the country will need "massive assistance" for reconstruction, rehabilitation, return of refugees, administration and a new police force. He is also insisting that disarmament is essential for lasting peace.

The first American troops of Operation Restore Hope

the Pentagon's code name for the relief of the starving in Somalia, are expected to land on Somali soil tomorrow. France, which has offered 2,000 soldiers, will beat the Americans by about 24 hours, sending a detachment of 130 Foreign Legionnaires from Djibouti to Mogadishu today. But the arrival of American marines and infantry in a phased deployment will have the most dramatic impact on the Somali capital.

The troops of the 10th Mountain Division (Light), based at Fort Drum in New York, were awaiting their detailed orders yesterday. They will fly into Somali on transport planes once the marines have secured the airport and port at Mogadishu.

Yesterday, the 1,800 marines who will lead the way were preparing for the deployment on board the USS Tripoli. The amphibious assault ship, together with the landing ships USS Juneau and USS Rushmore, all off Mogadishu, are carrying a self-contained marine force, complete with light tanks, armoured personnel carriers, helicopters, fuel, food and water.

The marines from the 1st Marine Expeditionary Unit, from Camp Pendleton in California, will fly by helicopter into Mogadishu. They have 23 helicopters, including four Cobras. Although they will fly in prepared for a hostile welcome, their arrival is not expected to be seriously resisted. Both the airport and port should be secured fairly quickly, enabling the remaining 25,000 or so American troops to fly in at regular intervals from the United States.

Back-up is to be provided by the USS Ranger, an aircraft carrier with 70 aircraft, and two warships, a guided missile cruiser, USS Valley Forge, and a destroyer, USS Kincaid. They are expected off Somalia from the Gulf later today or tomorrow.

Ethiopia has also agreed to allow the American forces to use their territory to cross into Somalia and a detachment of 40 American marines is expected to arrive in Addis Ababa later today.

Israelis tire of Rabin's poor progress

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

FIVE months after he won a landslide election promising to bring peace and prosperity to the Middle East, Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, is being criticised for his government's lacklustre performance.

Although the Israeli leader, who arrived in Rome yesterday and is expected in London tomorrow, came to power on a wave of enthusiasm, there is mounting disillusionment among Israelis and Palestinians over his perceived failure to meet his promises. The most notable example will be illustrated today in Washington when Israeli and Arab negotiators embark on the eighth round of the atrophied Middle East peace talks, where none of the participants is even pretending that progress is possible.

Even Mr Rabin, who predicted in July that he would have an agreement with Palestinians on the future of the

occupied territories within nine months, is privately resigned to the probability that there is little chance of real change before he visits Washington in March for talks with Bill Clinton, who takes over as president next month.

Palestinians allege that in addition to the stalled diplomatic scene, Mr Rabin, who also serves as defence minister, has failed to improve the conditions for the 1.8 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, who this week mark the fifth anniversary of their local uprising.

Since he came to power the number of Arabs killed has increased, with more than 50 Palestinians shot dead by the security forces; the latest victim was a teenager killed by soldiers in his classroom in Gaza at the weekend.

The Labour-led coalition government insists that it has made substantial changes to improve relations with its

Arab neighbours and the Palestinians. Mr Rabin has confirmed publicly that he is prepared to make territorial concessions to Syria over the occupied Golan Heights in exchange for peace.

He has slowed down the expansion of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and cut subsidies to the settlers. More recently the Israeli government, with the prime minister's grudging approval, took the first step in the Knesset to lifting the restriction on contacts with the outlawed Palestine Liberation Organisation.

These changes of emphasis have not yet been reciprocated by the Arab side, and most Israelis would be hard pressed to show any concrete improvement in their day-to-day lives since the rightwing Likud party fell from power in June.

Internally, even the normally supportive left-wing press has begun haranguing the government for its general lack of direction and specifically for its failure to improve the country's economy and to restore faith in the military after public disputes between the general staff.

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Carjacking is the latest peril to haunt lone women. But, Linda Grant asks, is the danger real, or a cynical hype?



The toughs who got going: Geena Davis (left) and Susan Sarandon came up, in Thelma and Louise, with at least one sure-fire way of fighting back against male aggression

Fear on the road to nowhere

On November 27, the *Daily Express* reported that a 25-year-old, advertising consultant had been held hostage in her car and forced on a "nightmare" ride by a "crazed pervert". Four days earlier the paper had told of a 22-year-old office worker whose car had stopped in traffic when a "knife-wielding thug" jumped into the back seat and forced her to drive on. Less than three months before that, a hotel proprietor on her way to a late-night showing of *Alien 3* ran across six lanes of motorway after her car broke down on the hard shoulder and a "powerfully-built" attacker put his hand through the window and tried to grab her hair.

If the newspapers are to be believed, the latest import from America, along with serial killing and computer hacking, is carjacking — attacking a woman in her car when it is parked, idling at traffic lights or broken down on the motorway. Carjacking, the averagely concerned women driver would gather, has reached crisis proportions.

Within the last ten days of November four cases were reported, two in London and two in Liverpool. In America, *Today* announced, carjacking has become a "nationwide epidemic". A Congress sub-committee on crime pushed through legislation earlier this year which imposed sentences of between 15 years and life for carjacking. It is an offence which seems to have come from nowhere. The first reported American case occurred only last year. Since then, large cities such as Detroit have been claiming 20 a week.

According to the tabloids, carjacking is only to be averted by following a lengthy list of motoring do's and don'ts. Keep your car doors

locked at all times, women are advised. Never leave the passenger window open, even in warm weather. Don't leave anything in view which could identify you as a woman, such as make-up, hats or scarves. Buy a personal alarm and a car alarm. Keep a map in the car at all times so you never have to stop and ask the way. Sensible precautions? Or has media hysteria constructed a British crystal crime-wave out of a few isolated incidents?

As violent crime against women escalates, women seem to be safe nowhere, whatever they are doing. Stay at home and you risk domestic violence. Go to work and you'll be sexually harassed. Take a walk and you're asking to be mugged. Use public transport and you're taking your life into your hands. Get a man to accompany you and you're putting yourself under the protection of a potential date-rapist. Drive and you're a target for carjacking.

And there is one group which by its very existence might as well be wearing sandwich boards saying: "Attack Me — I'm Vulnerable." These are, of course, career women. What other reason would a woman have to be driving without a male escort — as if shopping, taking children to school or visiting friends were tasks exclusively accomplished by husbands?

Is there a genuine risk for women motorists or is the carjacking "epidemic" no more than the latest manifestation of male anxiety about women's independence, an attempt to turn the whole world into a no-go zone? Last month the RAC launched its in-car phone service, a direct, push-button line to summon a patrolman and the police. While the service was designed to assist drivers who

had broken down, the television advertising campaign was targeted at women drivers. It would have recalled, in many viewers' minds, the case of Marie Wilkes, whose car broke down on the motorway and who was murdered after she had gone for help. Within a week of the device going on the market, the RAC says it received 5,000 enquiries.

Women in responsible positions resent being cast as victims by the media. Ann Koch, the deputy editor of *The World This Weekend*, the Radio 4 news programme, has, when driving at night on dark country

'If you took all this to heart you'd never go anywhere'

roads, considered a device like the one the RAC markets, but drives with her car doors unlocked and dismisses claims that carjacking is the terror that stalks career women. "Drawing public attention to safety is good, but if you took all this to heart you'd never go anywhere. I don't think women should be walking around in armour." She believes that the real safety issue is not about carjacking but the dangers of badly lit roads and car-parks.

Eighteen months ago, Birmingham City Council tried to open a women-only car-park, reflecting research which showed that 75 per cent of 500 women questioned locally felt vulnerable in multi-storey parking facilities. But the scheme was op-

posed by the Equal Opportunities Commission, which argued that it was illegal to offer a service to women only. An inspector with the West Midlands police said she would not use it because she did not believe men and women should be segregated.

When it opened it was offered to anyone who felt uneasy with ordinary car-parks. Not surprisingly, women gave it a wide berth, reasoning that if men could use it, it would be an obvious magnet for attackers.

Edmund King, a spokesman for the RAC, agrees that the carjacking scare has been hyped up. "We've been saying for a long time that if a woman abides by our 20-point programme of motoring safety, then she will have a minute risk of being carjacked," he says. "I lived in Los Angeles for a few years and I never had a problem because I never went into dangerous areas."

But many women drivers find it impossible to avoid neighbourhoods where potential attackers may lurk. Cindy George, who started Ladycabs, the women-only taxi service, ten years ago, takes carjacking more seriously. "Women need to be made aware that it's a big bad world out there with a lot of weirdos in it," she says.

"Women who are careful tend to be dismissed as being paranoid." It is Ladycabs' policy that drivers never leave their vehicle to ring doorbells unless by prior arrangement in order to help a disabled person. And their car doors are kept locked.

So what happens when the careful women driver is involved in an accident and locked doors trap her inside her car? After all, it happened to Ms George's daughter, whose central locking jammed after a head-on collision. "It's a Catch 22," Ms George says. "You've got to weigh up

the odds. It's more on the cards that some weirdo will jump into your car at the lights than you'll be in an accident." Mr King argues that since carjacking tends to happen in urban areas where speed limits are lower and the chances of serious accidents diminished, locking the doors should not be a problem.

To those whose business it is to research crimes against women, the hysteria surrounding carjacking is no more than another way of cashing in on women's insecurities. "It's silly to frighten women, because fear itself then becomes a problem," says Helen Peggs, a spokesperson for the National Victim Support Scheme. "People are making profits from terrifying women who don't know the real statistics."

If the newspapers really want to be helpful about crime prevention, they should talk about domestic violence," she says. "Only 12 per cent of women who are murdered are killed by a stranger. There are things that women can do to protect themselves against carjacking, but it's worrying when women get scared about something that is not likely to happen."

Making a killing from women's anxieties about their safety can backfire in the face of those companies apparently most eager to promote their concern for women's needs. An American executive, in Britain for a meeting with Vodafone (which makes car phones, supposedly the essential accessory for lone women), was allegedly assaulted in a car by one of the company's employees.

Perhaps women may consider imitating another American phenomenon: the *Thelma and Louise* theory — travel in pairs, and armed.

Anne example to us all

Oh, we are pleased about the Princess Royal! Delighted. Chuffed. Warmly approving. Were it not for the fact that she is not the Princess Royal, they don't come much more majestic than Anne: I tell you, H.R.H. can rivet you to the wall with that wide, sharp serious eye of hers) we would clap her on the back. Over the moon, we are.

By "we", I mean the natural Anne fans. A legion of slightly foxed, travel-weary working women on the shady side of 40, who identify ever more closely with the Princess Royal as years go by. The royal family's main role these days is to provide handy archetypes by which to judge and discuss our own lives and behaviour, a quirk to which few of us are immune. And while trying hard to maintain gentleness, good humour and understanding as requested by H.M., it must be said that we have become seriously out of tune with other models of princess lately. Not being quite old enough to start identifying with the Queen in that passionate way our mothers do, we are



LIBBY PURVES

daughters.

Anne fans approve the way she works so hard, and stands so little nonsense. We like the practical fatigues she wears on Save the Children Fund journeys, and the way she behaves as if photo-opportunities require no more of her than to stand

still and look towards the camera. We like the way she seems to be with children: after the frowny effectiveness of the Duchess of York and the dangerously damped empathy of the Princess of Wales, her bracing practical kindness and ruthless fund-raising comes as something of a relief.

Plenty of divorced women will have recognised, too, the skill that went into her own dignified divorce, and the studied friendliness of subsequent family reunions. They silently applauded her, knowing that the art of minimising the suffering of divorce to children requires concentration, resolution, and a willingness to take a certain amount of — face it — personal humiliation.

So we are pleased about her marriage to Commander Laurence. But what we most crow about, I suspect, is the total absence of fairy-tale about it. We have had royal fairy-tales up to here. We wish we had never wallowed in that marshmallow Carland fantasy of innocent young Diana and her wise yet vulnerable older Prince. We enjoyed the white crinkly dress at the time, but now feel a bit queasy about it.

Then we had the Jilly Cooper fairy-tale, as enacted by Sarah Ferguson. In this version the sexy, bouncy girl who has made her share of

mistakes finds true love amid trappings of flashy skiwear, profligate pranks and whoops of laughter. And we thought OK, but what happens when they actually have to do something? You know, get on with life, have children, have rows, sort out their diaries, travel separately, all that? We were right again, and very depressing it all was.

But now we have the none-fairy-tale. Nobody is fooled by those few pictures of the Princess and the Commander dancing the Dashing White Sergeant in a

romantic manner last summer: we prefer the Anne fans' preference for the fact that they just overwork her. *Brianna*, of course, then, a royal equestrian, she's a doughty working princess. We are quietly confident that this relationship has never included profligate fights, showing off to one another in helicopters, or the word Squidgy.

Even better, they go sailing together. Everybody knows that sailing "wild" boats (in northern British waters at that — her boat is moored up wild and stormy Loch Craignish, not at stately old Carnes) is a pursuit which appeals to a particular kind of couple. The kind who don't mind trading one each other's fingers as they struggle to get sails down, who are secure enough in their personal allure to risk being seen throwing up over the rail in a woolly bobble-hat, and who prove their mutual confidence not with prolonged and tearful telephone calls, but by going to sleep in a wet bunk, and trusting the other not to pile up the boat on Ardnamurchan Point, mean while.

Couples, in short, who prefer to work for their brief romantic moments on idyllic anchorages and do not make too much fuss when the idyllic anchor drags at 3am. Anne fans — practical, unglamorous, battered old boots that we are — applaud all of this, and Commander Laurence too. We give her our unqualified blessing.

And what makes it all even better is that we know, with peaceful certainty, that she doesn't give a damn whether we do or not.

There is a moment in the *Paper Chase* — subtitled "How to Clear Your Desk" — when Dawn French lies whispering across a pile of files while Jennifer Saunders tries to persuade her to throw them away.

The film's executive producer, Margaret Tree, might not be quite such a paperchase, but she understands that foible. "When we made the video we decided to have our own

clear your desk day. We filled 70 black plastic sacks which is not bad for a staff of 64. You have to practise what you preach."

Since her company provides training programmes for industry and commerce, this means implementing the sort of managerial, financial and organisational skills it teaches to others. The philosophy seems to have paid off.

From its beginnings 20 years ago, when John Cleese and Anthony Jay made a film about after-sales service called *Who Sold You This?*, Video Arts has grown to become number one in its field in this country and number two in the United States. Turnover last year was £13 million and a typical production has a budget of between £150,000 and £200,000.

Ms Tree, who was originally taken on as a production assistant on a three-week contract, became its joint managing director three years ago after she helped lead a £44 million management buy-out. Last Friday the company became the first of its kind to receive a British Standards Institution award for excellence.

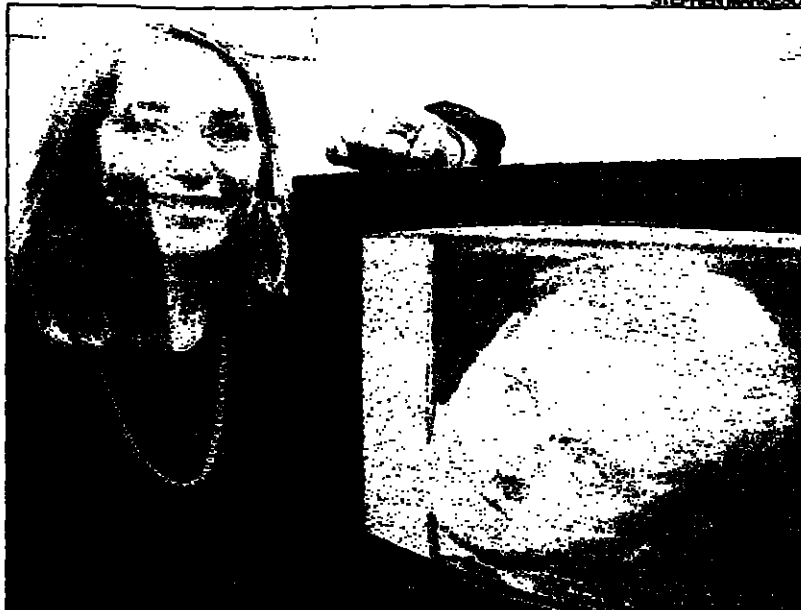
Ms Tree, who now has an office in Oxford Street, confesses to the occasional nostalgic hankering for the early

days when the company was run from her flat in Putney. "We had in effect a blank sheet of paper and we invented as we went along."

Many of the examples of bad practice in the films stem from real life. "After my secretarial training I went to work in a shipping office in the East End and it was an appalling experience. This guy did not even ask my name, it was 'do this, type that', without even the common courtesies."

Ms Tree is now Mr Cleese's boss, instead of the other way round. "He has a long-term contract but no title. He said he'd always fancied being an archduke but we didn't think we could accommodate that."

In the early years casting was done on the basis of the founders' pals doing favours. Now there is a cachet to being asked. The work is also well-



Tree: "Before us, training programmes used to be very dull and worthy"

paid and relatively swift: most films take about five days to make.

She has worked with almost every comedian and character actor of note from Rowan Atkinson (who got his first film

role in one of their productions) through Fry and Laurie, Smith and Jones, Rik Mayall, Harry Enfield and Robert Lindsay to Julie Walters and Timothy West. Even the Prince of Wales contributed to

ing, how to develop telephone skills, how to deal with customers. At the same time management is developing and changing all the time so you never run out of subjects."

The company now has 200

a guide to the environmentally sound business.

The successful formula seems to have stemmed from two factors: the realisation by Mr Cleese and company that in the television age the small screen was the most alluring medium for any message, and that the training pill could be sugared with humour.

"If you laugh and enjoy something you will remember it, whereas you won't if you are bored rigid," Ms Tree says. "Before us training programmes used to be very dull and worthy. We like to focus on all-time truths: how to run a meeting, how to develop telephone skills, how to deal with customers. At the same time management is developing and changing all the time so you never run out of subjects."

titles in 32 languages which can be rented for £140 for two days, for example, or bought outright for about £900. A best-seller might have been seen by as many as five million people world-wide.

"The films work abroad because of this business recognition: if something rings true it travels," she says. Japan, however, has remained unresponsive.

Originally Ms Tree wanted to be an actress; she became a secretary because her parents — her father was a clergyman in Wales — insisted on a secretarial course followed by six months of work to prove she could support herself. A job at Rediffusion Television convinced her she wanted to make programmes and at 43 she has never regretted her decision. "I did once play John's secretary in one of our early productions but I never want to be in front of the camera now. I wouldn't stop my daughter going on the stage, though, but she says what she wants to be is a

Ms Tree took five months off to have Holly, now 13, juggling work and home in the years since with the help of daily nannies and husband George Nicholson, a former



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كندا من لاس

If it doesn't fit, then flaunt it

Grunge, like punk, was born out of rebellion. Now, also like punk, it is slouching from the street to high chic



Fashion
IAIN R. WEBB

Just when it looked as if things were slowing down, and the thrill of dressing in Gap T-shirts was beginning to wear thin, a moment or two before it appeared that the recession was here for ever, and nothing was ever going to get customers back into the stores, something happened.

Grunge is probably the most talked about phenomenon since punk, and indeed there are parallels between the two. Both originated as street fashion, both have music as their focus, and grunge appears to be achieving cult status among the fashionable faces of New York, in much the same way that punk was picked up by middle class art students in London. Already the fall-out surrounding grunge echoes the effect which punk had on fashion and the media in the late 1970s.

Although grunge is now the buzzword on the lips of the beau monde, it first surfaced in America as a sub-culture at the tail end of the Reagan years, when two groups, Sonic Youth and The Butthole Surfers, pinpointed the malaise of disaffected youth, and its rejection of Wall Street values. A year or so ago the only music listened to in photographic studios in every fashion capital was that of the band Nirvana. Everybody had the album, *Nevermind*, and everybody loved the new sound of Seattle.

Of course, with the sound goes the look. Like the music it takes an anti-stance. In America this summer the box office favourite with the fashionable cognoscenti was a film called *Singles* which provided a template for the grunge image — an “I-don't-care-about-fashion” look which has itself become a fashion formula. Wordy T-shirts, striped pants, checkered shirts, all meticulously thrown together. Mismatching just perfectly.

At the recent New York collections it was easy to see that designers Marc Jacobs, Christian Francis Roth, and Anna Sui were in tune with the new grunge way of thinking. They are among the younger hipper-than-thou image-makers who spend their leisure hours watching MTV, and listening to the latest sounds. Previously, all three designers had shown their colours by sending out on to the runways 1970s-inspired fashions which resembled East Village flea market finds. It is this trinity which has gone mad for grunge, and focused the ailing industry on a new way of wearing what for most must appear old clothes. Mr Jacobs, who designs the Perry Ellis range, sees grunge as “a hipster romantic version of punk”, paraphrasing the crossover of references and imagery into one succinct sentence.

Grunge draws its inspiration from various sources. It would be difficult to identify exactly where and when it began, as its global cross-pollination is all-important to the end result. For several seasons in Paris the deconstructivist movement of design has been spearheaded by Helmut Lang, Martin Margiela, Jean Colonna and even, although she is technically part of the establishment, Rei Kawakubo of Comme des Garçons. Between them a new silhouette was born, with long skinny arms, long droopy skirts, and inside-out construction. Their clothes delighted the avant-garde and the very young. Among them was the fashion editor of British *Elle*, Anna Cockburn. Two seasons ago Ms Cockburn



Maroon/black stripe blazer, £495, by Moschino Cheap & Chic at Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1. Blue/gold/red check silk shirt, £80 approx, by Fenn Wright & Mason from selected branches of John Lewis. Cherry/grey/white stripe polo neck sweater, £43, Benetton stores nationwide (071-731 4564). Red and black tights (worn as hat), £3.85, Jonathan Aston Fingers from Selfridges, Oxford Street, London, W1

sat at the foot of a catwalk in Paris watching Linda Evangelista model a Comme des Garçons military-style greatcoat, bereft of sleeves, unfinished seams trailing in the wind. She must have smiled inside. There she sat in her Laurence Corner second-hand military greatcoat (much too big for her tiny frame) trailing the floor, her skinny rib sweater too tight, her hair chopped and spiked, looking as though she had given the scissors to her little sister and said, “Go ahead — do your worst”. The end effect was a kind of Shirley Partridge post-punk coiffure, which has become the second favourite style of forward thinking hairstylists. Most favoured is the “just-let-it-grow-and-flow” look, as worn by Kate Moss, the model of the moment who embodies grunge with her little girl looks. She is the antithesis of supermodel glamour.

But what then, you must be thinking, does all this have to do with me?

As with punk, which began as a squalid-looking street fashion but

soon graduated into the system, immortalised in ripped silk jersey and jewelled safety pins by Zandra Rhodes, the after-effects of grunge will turn the fashion world about face. The dramatic change in style will have customers queuing at the new goods are delivered, or at the very least approaching their wardrobes with a refreshed eye.

The look is very much about styling, putting clothes together in a different way. Or, in the case of Christian Francis Roth and his Smurf-like hat made from socks, working things from a new angle. The hat worn by the model in our picture is simply a pair of tights knotted and pinned into place. The overall effect is extreme, clothes are either too small or too big. They are draped around the body, layer upon layer, and yet still manage to reveal flesh. The clothes designed by Roth, Jacobs and Sui are inspirational, they will be worn by very few, but their effect will be felt by anyone interested in fashion. Mr Roth is not a great designer, but what he has done with this



latest collection is epitomise a feeling. “It’s something from the soul of the designer,” he says.

What Mr Roth’s soul is saying has been noted and refined by more experienced, merchandise-orientated designers. At the same collections in New York, Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren and Donna Karan all presented shows which embodied grunge consciousness. This overpowering drift towards something new will filter into trends for 1993. So what to look out for? Layers are all important, sheer

chiffons, silk jerseys and linens keep the look light and floaty. Unconstructed outlines make much of the body, dresses droop, and trousers (bell-bottomed or just w-i-d-e) fall low on the hip. Nothing is supposed to fit, be it little shrunken sweaters, or patterns (florals, stripes and plaids) which don’t match. Shoes are chunky, as a foil for the lightweight looks. The impression is liquid, but if you’re still not sure, read the T-shirt. With youthful arrogance it tells you what to think: This is wonderful.

“This is wonderful” black T-shirt, £25 approx, by Antoni & Alison at Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1; Liberty, Regent Street, SW1; Maison, 46-49 Neal Street, WC2; American Retro, 35 Old Compton Street, W1. Long button-through navy/white polka dot dress, £54.99: Next Directory, Style No M90341 (0345 100 500). Long button through black crêpe lace dress by Ghost (available in January), £234, at Whistles shops nationwide; Joannes Tent, 289 Kings Road, SW3. Wide black/white polka dot jersey trousers, £497, by Jean Muir to order; Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1; Lucienne Phillips, Knightsbridge, SW1; Fortnum & Mason, Piccadilly; Robell, Baker Street, W1; Palmers, Motcomb Street, SW1; Olive Walton, 137 Alcester Road, Moseley, Birmingham. Black suede desert boots, £35.99, by Clarks from Shellys, all London branches (081-450 0066). Photographs: Martyn Thompson. Make-up: Sharon Ives. Hair: Adam Melf for Smithers-Jones of Hampstead using hairpieces from Trenchco, 229 Kensington Church Street, W8, or mail-order 0273 774971/777503

Designer guide to the perfect mismatch



“Hippy, punk, romance”: designs by (from left) Marc Jacobs (two outfits for Perry Ellis), Christian Francis Roth, Anna Sui

A chance to get in on the Fashion Acts

FASHION Acts was launched in 1987 as an initiative to raise money for people affected by Aids. Its latest spectacular, the Fashion Acts charity fashion show, on Friday at Earls Court 2, London, promises an exclusive peek at the international collections, plus a preview of many spring-summer 1993 ranges, and the chance to see how eight national newspapers interpret fashion trends as they each create a scene in a specially commissioned segment. This

will include a unique creation by the fashion editor of *The Times*. Tickets are available at £25, £20, and £15 from the Earls Court box office (071-370 8399) but Fashion Acts is offering ten £20 tickets free to readers of *The Times*. Requests on a postcard with your name, address and daytime phone number, to: Fashion Department, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first ten postcards will receive free tickets.

Making the link

BUYING presents for women, young or old, is easy. Trying to find something for uncle Harry, nephew Tom, or uncle Dick is quite another matter. As the run-up to Christmas becomes mad dash, it is comforting to find store which can provide treats for all the male members of your family under one roof.

Off The Cuff has had a good year, and is celebrating by opening its fourth (and largest) store in London’s West End. The merchandise is spe-

cifically aimed at men, although, with the vogue for menswear styling, it will interest women looking for accessories to complete the image. From silk embroidered waistcoats for less than £20, through a vast selection of ties which run from the amusing to the serious, braces, boxer shorts, cuff links, and cravats, it is an Aladdin’s cave of not only useful, but unusual items which will certainly be far more appreciated than those grey socks were last year.

Off The Cuff, 350 Oxford Street, London W1 (new store) and nationwide.

Feasting at Harvey’s

AFTER kitting out the entire family, and home, from the first four floors (and basement) of Harvey Nichols department store, it is reassuring to know that it is now possible to fill your kitchen shelves on their fifth floor, which houses a food hall and restaurant. The food hall is packed with all manner of delicacies, and Harvey Nichols’ own-brand label necessities, such as tea, coffee, jams, marmalades and mustards, strikingly packaged in silver, black and white.



Hartnell’s last royal bride: Princess Margaret

Dressed like a princess

HARTNELL is closing but the clothes will live on. As the royal courtiers were shutting up shop, The Wedding Company was snapping up the range of wedding dresses created for Hartnell (whose last royal bride was Princess Margaret) under Marc Bohan.

The Deluxe Wedding Dress Collection was to have been marketed by Hartnell at prices ranging from £3,000 to £16,000. Now it will be offered at prices from £1,250 to £4,500 in a sale to be held next weekend. The dresses, in sizes 8 to 12, are made in chiffon, embroidered duchess satin and tulle dupion, and feature fine lace and jewelled necklines.

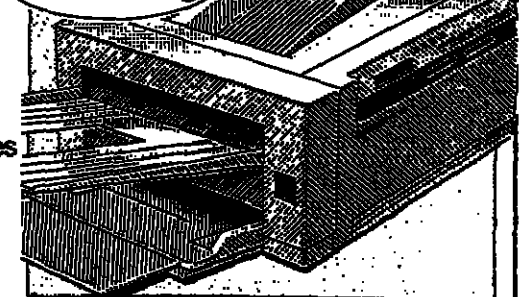
Appointments can be made to view the collection by telephoning 081-336 2117 or 081-949 1999. The Wedding Company sale will be held at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, London, from noon to 6pm on Saturday and from 10am to 4pm on Sunday.

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Matthew Parris

■ Mixed-up babies are the visible face of a human identity crisis

The news that a hospital has mistakenly substituted one baby for another raises a number of large issues, none of which I plan to address. For instance, we cannot yet be sure whether this really was a mistake, or part of Mr Major's vision of a classless society, like the recent jumbling up of names and results in the schools' examination league tables. This issue I shall ignore.

And we should brace ourselves to resist with scepticism the avalanche of new appeals against birth certificates which must be about to engulf our medico-legal system. Every so often, as we all know, a white mother surprises her white husband and family by giving birth to a black baby; and the custom has been to blame the mother. Her protestations have been treated as routine and disregarded. But now I expect that thousands of women who in their time have been turned out into the snow, noisily divorced or quietly put aside, will be marching on the Department of Health at the Elephant and Castle to demand justice. This prospect, too, I shall ignore.

Just as I shall ignore the likelihood that for huge numbers of children the news will confirm what has always been their hunch: that the people who claim to be their parents cannot possibly be their real ones. The day the hospital's error was confirmed, literally millions of us must have read the story and thought: "Hm. I wonder..."

I know I did. From the day my father spelt my name wrong for the first time, and the day my mother took me, aged six, to a fancy dress party as "Christmas Past", dressed in a nappy with a big safety pin. I have always known that I was really somebody else's child. My sister, wrapped in crepe paper as "Christmas Present" for the same competition, and my brother Roger, who was forced to go completely naked as "Christmas to Come", have never entirely recovered from the scars. My brother was only four and too small to rebel. My sister's complaint was not that she was wrapped, but that she was so badly wrapped. All three of us realised at once that our apparent parents must have kidnapped us at birth. There can hardly be a reader who cannot recall being seized with a similar conviction.

Now — Christmas being in our thoughts — can it be long before one of the trendier Churches of England bishops takes the opportunity to shock us by speculating that we now have an explanation for the so-called virgin birth. Mary was set up. She was homeless, and not pregnant at all: just tired and fat, like many women.

A victim of the incompetent management of an oped-out Bethlehem hospital trust which had ended up with a spare baby, the rough-sleeping Mary's indisposition in the stable was used by the visiting district nurse as a cover to plant the child. In their horror (the bishop will suggest) she and Joseph made up the story about the angel afterwards. The bishop will conclude with a denunciation of Tory policies on the NHS, and homelessness, and ask us to see the real message of Christmas behind every box in cardboard city at Waterloo Station. Outraged MPs will call for his dismissal. From this, too, your columnist turns aside...

To the only question, arising from the hospital blunder, which really interests me. It is this: *does it really matter which baby you bring home?*

Would it make the least difference to our world if maternity clinic matrons had for years been operating a secret lottery with newborn babies? How many diners would truly know the difference if the expensive wine the wine waiter opened with such flourish at their table was not the one they ordered? Without the label to guide us, how many would spot the difference if the Ashbourne water we requested turned out to be Stalvern, or Perrier? Can I really distinguish between Bells and Grants? What, anyway, between friends, is one baby as opposed to another? And does it matter whether the Rodin you so proudly display is a "real" Rodin, or a "copy"?

You may be sure that these questions provoke an angry and confused response whenever they are asked. They touch a raw nerve among wine-fanciers, whisky drinkers, mothers, art-lovers and connoisseurs of bottled water. They do so for a good reason. They expose an area of unconscious philosophical anxiety. It is the question we call the question of identity.

Does it matter that this skull is the actual skull of Tsar Nicholas? We feel that it does. Why does it matter? We are lost for an answer. Does it matter that this is a genuine Matisse, rather than just a perfect, indistinguishable copy? We feel that it must. Why does it matter? We know we cannot say.

Does it make any difference that this is the child of my loins, rather than somebody else's? Throughout history there has been little that mattered more. But can I justify it? Can I provide the argument? Can I say why my attitude towards the child should change if I knew this particular configuration of human cells was not mine? Even before trying, I know that any attempt to venture into logic would be disastrous, would end in an unconvincing conclusion.

Every scientific argument, every practical test, must lead inescapably to this observation: that differences between things or creatures which relate not to any quality in them which can now be discerned, or any characteristic they now exhibit, or ability they now possess — but relate, instead, to some presumed fact about their origin — cannot alter their present value to us. Not, anyway, on an objective view. That — with part of our mind — we know.

But with another part of our mind we know that they can. We are uncomfortably aware of the inconsistency. Occurrences which remind us of it are disturbing, for they remind us of a lie which is quite important to us: the lie of "identity". Identity, you see, is a sort of lie: a vain construct of the human imagination. We do know that, underneath.

Careless hospitals, clever art forgers, and the manufacturers of fake Swiss watches, should therefore watch out: you touch us where it hurts.

Britain's relationship with America will benefit from a delay in the two leaders meeting, writes Peter Riddell

Will Clinton be 'special'?

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

Thirty-two years ago a Conservative prime minister was apprehensive about the arrival of a new and self-confident Democratic president in place of an old and trusted Republican friend in the White House. Harold Macmillan was worried that he might not seem "relevant" to the much younger Jack Kennedy. In the event, they worked well together.

Echoes of these earlier doubts are now being heard in Whitehall, reinforced by the news yesterday that John Major would not, after all, be seeing president-elect Bill Clinton on his visit to Washington in just over 10 days' time. Mr Clinton has done Mr Major a favour by delaying a meeting, but has himself missed an opportunity.

The great danger in British-American relations is of self-delusion, of mistaking close working ties for an automatic identity of interest. That much-abused term the special relationship obscures more than it clarifies. It is never used in Washington and has never applied to economics and trade. But Britain does have an unusually close relationship with America on defence and intelligence

matters, and at a working level between diplomats. Britain has always sought to act as a candid friend, affecting American decisions through private discussions rather than by public protest.

The reliable ally approach can give Britain a high level of influence at crucial times when an American president has not made up his mind, as during the early stages of the Gulf crisis. Margaret Thatcher was a skilful operator in Washington during the 1980s. But that influence should not be exaggerated and sentimentalised. American national interests always come first.

The relationship was bound to experience a jolt with a change of president. "Good old Brent Scowcroft", and other long-serving officials will go, to be replaced by the largely unknown — unknown at least in London, although Sir Robin Renwick and the British Embassy in Washington have for some months discreetly been

making contacts with Mr Clinton's advisers.

The adjustment to the new team will take time. Not too much should be made of alleged anger among Mr Clinton's campaign team at the involvement of Tory officials in advising the Bush campaign, or of the Home Office searching its files about the Democrat. Neither is the best start to the Clinton-Major relationship, but the campaign is over and its resentments will soon be forgotten. The campaign strategists will not be in charge of foreign policy. Mr Clinton's goodwill message yesterday underlined the mutual interest in avoiding talk of snubs or rifts.

More important, and comparable to 1960-61, is the contrast of ideology between Mr Major as the defender of the Conserva-

tive revolution of the 1980s and Mr Clinton as the standard-bearer of a change to more active government. In practice, the differences will be smaller in policy than in rhetoric, and will anyway be less in foreign than domestic policy. But differences there will be.

Delaying a meeting with the new president gives Mr Major a chance to take stock, rather than to assume that the previous relationship will continue unchanged. There are several possible difficulties, including the momentum of the Middle East peace talks and to a needed review of policies on Russia.

Moreover, the lesson of the past 18 months in the former Yugoslavia is that the European Community lacks the will, unity and military resources to act on its own, while Washington gains nothing from standing back and half-smearing at the ineffectiveness of the EC. Mr Hurd wants to produce an agreed EC position in Edinburgh. That sounds fine in theory, but not in practice if it

America's say remains crucial in so many areas. Just before the startling announcement of the large-scale commitment of American troops to Somalia, one senior British minister was talking about the impact of the hiatus in Washington policy-making during the transition. He did not think much damage had been done, partly because recent American activity had been selective. But the interval could not be too long. America remains central to maintaining the momentum of the Middle East peace talks and to a needed review of policies on Russia.

Mr Major's personal standing at present is not high either in the EC or in America. So he should not overplay a weak hand. But when the Clinton team is in place, he does have a role and an opportunity. It is the traditional British one of preventing European and American policies from moving away from each other. Harold Macmillan would have understood.

Welcome to the Ghoul Age



The iceman cometh, but it would have been better had he stayed; unfortunately, he is no longer in a position to goeth. I have nothing against the medical school of Innsbruck University, but I wish it would stick to dissecting corpses or, at a pinch, dissecting the man in charge.

This beginning may cause bewilderment: what sin has a harmless hospital committed, to call down my wrath? Oddly enough, I think it is indeed a great sin, though I fear few will agree. Anyway, the story begins in the Austrian Alps, near the Italian border. There has been an astonishing find: a well-preserved human body from 5,000 years ago, in the Stone Age. The body is so completely intact that the pores of his skin are visible, as are his eyeballs (he died with his eyes open), and his left ear can be seen to be folded back as he lay down for his last, 5,000-year, sleep.

The body was found by mountain hikers; its preservation was due to the ice and snow in which he was entombed, above the line where these never melt. His clothes were undisturbed, and beside him lay various items — bows and arrows, an axe, a fur hat, an amulet.

How did he die? There are many theories. Perhaps he went on ahead of his companions, and they turned back as night came on; perhaps, because the bows and arrows were not finished, he was searching for materials (though there could not have been trees at that height); perhaps he had had to go down to the valley and up again, and he was too exhausted after the climb to do anything but sleep; perhaps he had cattle, and after he settled them for the night lower down, went up to be alone. He may have made a fire; indeed, at such altitudes even the hardest Stone Age Prometheus would have welcomed warmth, and there was some charcoal among his possessions. And, come to think of it, if the frozen visitor from 3000 BC was a herdsman, what happened to his beasts when he failed to return for milking or to lead them down to their pasture?

Did his fellows search for him, and go mourning back to the valley when they could not find him? (Most of us will by now have thought of Mallory and Irvine; did they in turn go too far up and find themselves trapped by the night? But what kind of mourning, or friendship for that matter, did Stone Age

Stone Age man is better off dead and buried, says Bernard Levin

people have? William Golding's *The Inheritors* is so masterly a work that we are fairly hypnotised into believing such ceremonies took place not just among the people of the Stone Age but among — as Golding's figures were — pre-men.

But what about my complaint? It takes the form of a rebuke to grave robbers, however respectable the robbing. If you and I met a man who had been dead for 5,000 years, I trust that our first feeling, and our last, would be of awe; surely we would tip toe away and let him go to sleep again. But the Austrian experts know not awe; they are now examining this man from the world's past, excitedly demonstrating that he was stretched out, not curled up, from which they deduce that he was not cold when he lay down. Moreover, "cold, dry autumn winds must have desiccated the body", and so they might; but what disturbs me is that the body in question is now "being kept in a freezer at the University of Innsbruck medical

school", though until those hikers came along it was being kept in a freezer on a silent mountain, and had been there for some two-and-a-half thousand years before "our smote" is blooming 'lyre.

Why do we have to know everything, particularly when in fact we know nothing? A Stone Age man died, and the eternal snows covered him. But when the hikers came down and related what they had found, was there no one among the posse assembled for the climb up the mountain to say "leave him alone"? Instead, along came Herr Markus Egg, and he is now "studying the man's artefacts at the Romisch-Germanisches-Zentralmuseum in Mainz, Germany". Why is he doing that, and why isn't he studying his wife's horrible new hat instead?

Because the human race has become a race of nosy parkers, demanding to know things that

for the most part they would not understand. In what way are we more complete for knowing that a Stone Age man died? Would we not be better employed trying to comprehend why we live? The truth is that all the scientists in the world cannot get inside the head of the snow-embalmed man, and they will be arguing till the next Ice Age over the copper axe that our hero had with him. (And that is hardly an exaggeration, for some say that artefacts made of copper were, in those days, very rare indeed — there were no mineral deposits in the area — so a man with a copper axe must have been some kind of chieftain or even holy man, and the axe a symbol of his superiority. Or not, as the case may be, for Herr Egg insists that an axe is an axe, and "you could use it to cut wood, or you could smash a human head".)

Five millennia have gone past since our friend died, and who will be bold enough to point out that somewhere among the years time tilted over, and the world started to become worse instead of better? Suppose the scientists at Innsbruck managed to bring the man to life and sent him out into our world, copper axe and all: would he

not, when he had got over his astonishment at our technology, think that the Stone Age was a much better time? Would he not shudder at the dirt and cruelty, the folly and hate, the vanity and greed, the crime and punishment, the aimlessness and ignorance, the bloody wars and the dishonest peaces?

What does he know, or wish to know, of the million child prostitutes in India, of the starvation in Somalia, of the 30,000 murders a year in the United States? When he looks up at the sky — much the same sky as when he was alive — would he not be puzzled when he could not see the stars for the filth with which we have filled our atmosphere? When he sees trains and aeroplanes, and asks what the people in them are going to do, would he be able to understand the answer, which is that they are going to return from whence they came?

It is too late for a call to leave him alone in his ice-still grave. But it is not too soon for us, if we have any imagination, to demand that when they have discovered from him what there is to be discovered (which is nothing), they should put him back exactly where he was, to sleep for another 5,000 years.

Currie out of favour

EDWINA CURRIE, whose political ambitions now extend across the Channel to Brussels, has been thwarted in her attempts to stand for a European seat bordering her parliamentary constituency in Derbyshire. Currie applied for Midlands Central, a marginal now held by Labour, but did not even make the shortlist. Insiders suggest that her style was considered a mite abrasive for the delicate craft of European policy making. A pity, because some Tories were hoping that their highest-profile candidate for a Euro-seat would achieve success before Labour's — almost certainly Glenys Kinnock, who is being considered as a candidate for South East Wales.

Currie must find her rebuttal at best embarrassing, but speaking yesterday from her home the MP was her usual ebullient, positive self. "I have shown an interest in several seats," she admits. "But I do not think it would be in the interests of the party for me to leave a strong parliamentary seat for a very much weaker seat in Europe."

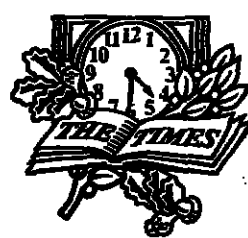
Certainly Currie has made it clear that she is not keen to fight

marginals. But, having turned down the offer of a minister's job at the Home Office after the election, Currie must be eager to increase her influence in other spheres. Such a flat rejection will doubtless make her even more determined.

Ode to typing

IT TOOK James Joyce 18 years to write *Finnegans Wake* and Harold Brodkey 30 years to write his first novel, *The Runaway Soul*. Next spring the first biography of Walter de la Mare will be published after a 36-year gestation.

The author is Theresa Whistler, a family friend of the de la Mares. In 1957 she was commissioned by the poet's son Dick, a commissioning editor for Faber & Faber, and given full access to his father's papers. However, so violent were the protests of Dick's elder sister, Florence, that Whistler was eventually forced to abandon Faber in favour of Duckworth. That, says Whistler, is the main reason for the delay. But she emphasises the sheer quantity of material. "The papers filled a whole floor of Dick's house. De la Mare kept everything, even his rejection slips. He used to say he had enough to 'paper a boudoir'."



DIARY

She is anxious that public attention may focus on the book's gestation at the expense of its content. She need not worry. Victoria Glendinning, who has just published a biography of Anthony Trollope, says: "Some people have one book that they take their whole life to write. Some never even finish their book. The fact that it is going to be published must be a good thing. Mine usually take about four or five years to write."

Whatever else the Princess Royal is expecting as a second wedding present from her mother when she marries Tim Laurence at Craithie, it is unlikely to be a Fabergé egg. The Queen has proved loath to part with a single item from her collection of the great jeweller's work. While other members of the family have lent pieces to a Fabergé exhibition that opened at Watski Jewellers in London

last week, the monarch declined on the basis that she is not a patron of the charity that will benefit, the Samaritans. What of Princess Anne? As a horsewoman she has, of course, lent a gold-mounted riding crop.

Family viewing

DESPITE increased IRA activity in mainland Britain, the director of a new film starring Daniel Day-Lewis as Gerald Conlon — a member of the Guildford Four wrongly accused of the 1974 pub bombing — is to keep his celluloid account well clear of the quagmire that is Anglo-Irish relations.

Jim Sheridan, who worked with Day-Lewis on *My Left Foot*, begins casting for other roles next week after a two-year search for funding throughout America. Having finally landed a \$10 million deal with Universal Pictures, Sheridan is keen to

emphasise that the film, *In the Name of the Father*, will be the story of an innocent family rather than a political diatribe. "It's about clearing their names," says Sheridan. "I'm not interested in the political aspect. All I like doing is making good stories." Hard to avoid in this case, perhaps.

● Drive a Porsche? This advertisement, spotted under windscreen wipers in Kensington, could be of interest. To foil the new police cameras, it suggests spending £18.75 on a can of Photo Faze, "a spray that when applied to a number plate reflects the flashgun's dazzle into the camera lens, blurring the image (and) preventing an invasion of your privacy". At the bottom, in small print, it reads: "Whilst it is not an offence to manufacture, sell or own this product, use of it may constitute an offence." Good to know.

Furniture complex

SIGMUND FREUD'S couch, upon which patients lay to describe their innermost thoughts for 40 years, is to tour Europe along with the green velvet armchair in which the great psychoanalyst sat throughout his sessions. Proceeds of the travelling exhibi-

tion, to Paris, Rome and Berlin next autumn, are to replenish the increasingly empty coffers of London's Freud Museum, expecting a £85,000 shortfall next year. Erica Davies, museum director, hopes the exhibition will

you say you feel dull and uninteresting

resurrect interest in Freud. "His couch is a symbol of freedom just as his life was a continual search for the freedom for the individual," says Davies. "I don't know why, but people in Britain do not seem," that interested. We have asked successive arts ministers to visit, without any success. We've just had a letter from Peter Brooke saying he is too busy to come." David Mellor, one suspects, might have found the experience a little too close to home.



TIME FOR A SCAPEGOAT

Who will guard Europe's "guardians"?

On Friday four leaders of the European Community's Christian Democratic governments rejected the proposals put forward by John Major to help Denmark ratify the Maastricht treaty. Their unthinking reaction is a piece of political foolishness that has bewildered the Danish government, angered the British presidency and threatens to wreck any solution to one of the most vexed issues on the Edinburgh agenda. It is part of a growing tendency to blame all the Community's difficulties on the presidency.

Christian Democrats in the EC have long seen themselves as the guardians of the federal flame, the heirs of Adenauer and Robert Schuman and the champions of an ever closer union of continental democracies informed by Christian, usually Roman Catholic, ideals. Their meetings before European summits have led to calls for speedier integration of the Community, calls which in recent years have strongly influenced the summit agenda and set the pace, at least rhetorically, for the closer political integration which culminated in Maastricht.

British and Danish Conservatives have never belonged to this tradition. Their secular parties do not have the same social or religious underpinnings of Christian Democracy. The rejection therefore on Friday by Belgium, Germany, Greece and Luxembourg of Britain's proposed declarations to help Denmark has as much to do with continental suspicion of an alien brand of conservatism as it does with the purported fears of diluting the treaty and giving Denmark too much freedom to opt out of common defence and monetary policies.

It may be that the four, deprived this year of the usual cheer-leader from Italy, are merely staking out a negotiating position, whistling in the federalist gloom as the enthusiasm for closer European union dims and economic realities eat away at their

governments' popularity. The rejection by Swiss voters yesterday of the proposed enlarged market, bringing together the EC and the seven-nation European Free Trade Association, echoes the waning enthusiasm in Scandinavia for Community membership and the Maastricht vision. As Europe moves into recession, and vested national interests call for help, the high-water mark of federalism could already have passed.

Certainly the Christian Democrats have felt obliged during the Commission presidency of Jacques Delors, a socialist, to show themselves as *communautaires* as the socialists. Yet Helmut Kohl, the man whose voice counts most, was supportive in recent Ditchley talks with Mr Major of his attempt to resolve the Danish difficulty.

For Christian Democrats and others alike, however, the temptation to blame everything on a failed British presidency is a way of avoiding the tough choices that must be made at the summit. The perception, encouraged by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, that Mr Major has stumbled and stumbled his way to Edinburgh, is being fanned by governments that know their own positions alone could tear the Community apart: Greece on Macedonia, France on Gatt, Spain on Community financing. Mr Major has explained at length on his travels that his agenda is the basis of much hard bargaining. He will not, unfortunately, have a chance to court Herr Kohl and Mitterrand individually, the two men whose help he will most need. But Anglo-German relations are now back on course, and the government is in daily contact with the French prime minister and foreign minister. If the government's clumsiness over Maastricht ratification is taken by all as an excuse to kick every issue into touch and blame a muddled presidency, the leaders have only themselves to blame for a fiasco.

A UNIVERSITY RETHINK

The students' union is at last coming up with good ideas

The charter published today by the National Union of Students is proof that this once discredited organisation is starting to modernise itself. Less than a year ago, warring student factions were trading punches on the NUS conference platform at Wolverhampton. Today, the union launches a mature policy statement which can be the basis of reasoned debate with ministers, vice-chancellors and the funding councils.

Some sections of the charter still bear the finger-prints of the old-fashioned left, the descendants of the *Solavite-huitards* who succeeded in deterring a generation of students from campus politics. It seems odd to argue, on the one hand, for organisational flexibility in universities but insist, on the other, that Wednesday afternoon and Saturday mornings should be kept free for sport and recreation; odder still to demand academic credit for student union work.

The NUS charter also fails to pick up the gauntlet thrown down by Education Secretary, John Patten, at the Tory party conference when he promised to introduce voluntary membership to the union and break "the last closed shop". This is a conspicuous omission in a document giving so much space to "choice". The NUS could have explored a system which would preserve the best of its services but give students the right to take their custom elsewhere, perhaps through an opt-out clause. Instead, the union itself has opted out of the argument about its future.

But in other respects the charter is clear-sighted. The rapid expansion of higher education is to be applauded. But it poses a series of questions which students and school-leavers have every right to ask. The NUS is right, in particular, to insist that performance indicators for each institution be freely available, that students have access

to information kept about themselves, and that a standardised appeals procedure be introduced. Mr Patten's own Further and Higher Education Charter, to be launched early in the New Year, must bring to universities the openness which last month's exam league tables brought to schools.

As student numbers increase, more cost-effective methods of teaching must also be found. The funding councils have offered bonuses to those universities which admit more students without full funding. But eventually the traditional academic year will have to be restructured to maximise the use of existing facilities.

Lord Flowers, the former vice-chancellor of London University, is due to report on this sensitive matter next year. The NUS charter makes a sensible contribution in suggesting three 15 week terms a year of which each student would attend two. Its proposals for "modularity" — degrees based on credit accumulation — would encourage mature students to take courses as quickly or slowly as they wished and enable their younger counterparts to break their studies when necessary to earn money.

Most strikingly, the union argues that grants should be modular too, linked to the individual courses which students take rather than a rigid three year programme of study. This is more imaginative than practical. It does, however, draw necessary attention to the need to review the maintenance system as universities expand. Currently, students are faced with a confusing mish-mash of grants, loans and over-stretched "access" funds. The parliamentary select committee on education failed to come up with a more effective formula before the general election. Mr Patten, more supported by NUS opinion than he might have expected, may yet prove equal to the task.

PRINCESS FOR THE 1990s

This royal romance is in tune with the times

The Queen's *annus horribilis* is to have a happy ending. The surprise announcement at the weekend that the Princess Royal will marry at Balmoral will be greeted by all but the most embittered republican as cause for celebration.

More than any other younger member of the Royal family Princess Anne has earned the nation's respect through her decorum during her personal troubles and her tireless work for charity. Her remarks yesterday on the Save the Children fund will have impressed every listener with her knowledge, sympathy and plain common sense about the problems of poverty and the developing world. There was not a touch of the frivolity and arrogance which has so harmed other members of the family.

This seriousness of purpose has allowed her to pilot her way through the difficult waters of divorce without self-pity or public scandal. As the first of the Queen's children to marry and the first to suffer a divorce she could easily have come to symbolise the Royal family's troubles. Instead she exemplifies its higher qualities of service and self-sacrifice, truly a Princess for the 1990s.

It was not always so. The early days of telling photographers to "naïf-off" and the over-costly Ruritanian wedding to Captain Phillips, gave the impression of the Princess being a spoilt, over-protected daughter. That "fairy tale" wedding was merely one

example of a series of public events, orchestrated by Buckingham Palace, that served to distance the Crown from the people.

The pomp and circumstance of the Westminster Abbey service in 1973, watched live by 500 million television viewers, contrasts starkly with the simple ceremony that the Princess is organising in Scotland 19 years on. Gone is the Royal bombast and ceremonial, glass coach and 1,500 guests.

Instead on Saturday a few dozen friends and family will squeeze into the small Craigie church. Some critics may carp that a Church of Scotland wedding sidesteps the Church of England ban on remarriage in church. The question of choosing a religious ceremony, given that it is perfectly legal under Scottish law, rather than a registry office is a matter for the Princess's conscience only. Everything we know about her suggests she will have thought and prayed long and hard before deciding to remarry in church.

At a time of world-wide recession, civil war and mass starvation there is too little good news for us to report. But a Princess who took control of her own life, did a great deal to benefit the poorest, set an example of good behaviour to her fellow Royals and then fell in love with a dashing naval commander, has the power to enchant all.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Use of plutonium for nuclear war

From the Chairman of BNFL

Sir, Lord Melchett, executive director of Greenpeace (letter, November 30), maintains that BNFL's thermal oxide reprocessing plant (Thorp) will increase the risk of nuclear weapons proliferation. This is not correct. The facts about the non-proliferation of plutonium and civil uses are as follows:

1. Thorp will be used only for civil, commercial reprocessing and not for reprocessing military grade plutonium. It will be subject to continuous safeguards inspection by a resident team of Euratom inspectors. Euratom have already indicated that Thorp can be effectively safeguarded.

2. International agreement already exists which ensures that Thorp will be effectively safeguarded. An International Atomic Energy Authority forum concluded in May 1992 that there is a wide range of techniques available for efficient safeguards at reprocessing plants such as Thorp.

3. Plutonium has been stored under safe and secure arrangements at BNFL's Sellafield for over 30 years.

4. Plutonium recovered at Sellafield will not be returned to customers without the approval of HM Government. It is government policy to export plutonium and other nuclear materials only to countries (apart from nuclear weapon states) where it will be subject to a full-scale safeguards agreement with the IAEA.

The technology is now available to take the plutonium and mix it with uranium to form a mixed oxide (MOX) fuel which is more energy-efficient than traditional uranium fuels.

BNFL, which is a leader in this technology, is commissioning a demonstration plant at Sellafield to do this, and has already won an overseas order for MOX fuel. The plutonium contained in MOX fuel cannot be extracted without complete reprocessing.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN R. S. GUINNESS,
Chairman,
British Nuclear Fuels plc,
65 Buckingham Gate, SW1,
December 4.

From Dr David Lowry

Sir, I support Lord Melchett's criticism of the prima facie breach of the United Kingdom's obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

A careful reading of *Hansard* demonstrates that strictly Lord Melchett is wrong to assert that breach of the NPT was not brought up in the frigate debate in the Commons (report, November 23). Dr David Clark, Opposition defence spokesperson, did raise the matter briefly (*Hansard*, cols 702-703) — and the Conservative MP for Clwyd North-West, Mr Rod Richards, almost justified "selective" nuclear proliferation, if it assisted M16 intelligence operations (cols 689-691).

More important, however, as was reported in *The Observer* on November 29, Mr John Gordon, head of the Foreign Office's nuclear energy department until 1988, has endorsed the claims of those of us who have long claimed at the half-yearly meetings of non-governmental organisations with the Foreign Office that the United

Kingdom is in breach of the NPT.

Perhaps instead of the brush-off, the ECO will take note — and overdue action.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID LOWRY
(Director),
European Proliferation
Information Centre,
11 Goodwin Street, N4,
November 30.

From Dr Kitty Little

Sir, Lord Melchett writes that if the thermal oxide reprocessing plant is allowed to open BNFL will export sufficient plutonium "for 4,000 nuclear warheads". He is wrong.

Weapons-grade plutonium consists of the isotope PU-239. But the plutonium from civil nuclear reactors used for electricity production contains quite a lot of PU-240. With PU-240 present a nuclear explosion cannot be produced. Greenpeace have been told this frequently.

Professor Ian Fells, whose letter you published on the same day as Lord Melchett's, reminds us that fast reactors will be needed in the first 20 to 30 years of the next century. Reprocessing is necessary to provide them with fuel.

The monopoly that would result if the campaign being conducted by the anti-nuclear network is successful would give the controllers of the French nuclear industry enormous economic and political power. They would have monopoly control over the only adequate source of electricity for the world's industries.

Mr Heseltine has already agreed that they should have a monopoly over fast-reactor production (based on research and development carried out by the British nuclear industry), and has taken steps to eliminate our industry, despite three British firms having offered to pay for a continuation of our fast-reactor development.

Yours sincerely,
KITTY LITTLE,
8 Olney Court,
Marlborough Road,
Oxford,
December 3.

From Mr Alex Henney

Sir, I agree with Lord Marshall of Goring ("Reactors that bred us nothing but trouble", November 23) that it is right to withdraw support for work on the fast breeder reactor, and that energy decisions are usually made on spurious grounds.

I wonder if he remembers the claims he was making from 1978 to 1980, advocating that we should "build fast reactors with all commendable speed". Throughout the 1980s he claimed that Sizewell B would be economic. Then in 1988 he claimed that "I think the [price] bids [for nuclear] will be very competitive... I believe nuclear power will go ahead with privatisation".

Decisions (to which he has been party) have indeed been made on spurious grounds.

Yours faithfully,
ALEX HENNEY,
Energy Economic Engineering Ltd.,
38 Swains Lane, N6,
November 25.

Opt-out harassment

From Mr Gus John

Sir, Andrew Turner's letter (November 23) accusing Hackney Education Authority of harassing a headteacher and governors of a school seeking grant-maintained status is misleading.

The Church of England school is facing closure and met the headteacher and governing body to discuss the closure decision which is supported by the Diocesan Board. One of my officers subsequently wrote to the headteacher pointing out the statutory requirements as outlined in the 1989 regulations governing the grant-maintained schools balloting procedure.

To suggest that this amounts to threatening legal action and the possibility of bankrupting a school and its governors is absurd and somewhat paranoid.

Yours sincerely,
GUS JOHN,
Director of Education,
London Borough of Hackney,
The Edith Cavell Building,
Enfield Road, N1,
November 30.

Police raid headgear

From Superintendent M. Waldren

Sir, May I reassure Dr N. A. H. Dawman (letter, November 30) that his concerns about armed and "masked" police officers are well taken. There are, however, a few points which I believe he has overlooked.

It would not be appropriate here to go into the circumstances surrounding the largest ever seizure of cocaine in this country (report, November 24). Suffice to say that as a result of the magnificent work by No 9 Regional Crime Squad and HM Customs and Excise the cargo of Fox Trot Five failed to reach its intended destination. Numerous burglaries and other crimes (together with the associated misery for the victims), undertaken just to pay for this amount of drugs, will not now take place; maybe a few lives have been saved as well.

As one of the many police contrib-

utors to this operation, and to many other armed operations in London, I can confidently assert that there was no question of any officers assuming disguise. It was correctly anticipated that some of them might have to spend most of the night in small open boats, and it would have been irresponsible not to provide them with appropriate clothing, including balaclavas.

The latter did not, in fact, cover the faces of any of the police officers and no attempt was made by any of the officers to use them for this purpose. No such attempt is ever made, unless individual security is an issue.

To raise the spectre of the law being upheld by incognito and untraceable police officers is wholly unwarranted.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE WALDREN,
Metropolitan Police Service,
MPS Firearms Unit (SO19),
337 Old Street, EC1.

Extending choice over BBC powers

From Ms Lesley Abdela

Sir, Whether or not Parliament, in our name, gives the BBC a statutory right of existence (Professor Barendt's letter, December 1) there is a serious matter for the government of the day to consider — the way in which the BBC current affairs/politics television programme has overlooked the needs of the United Kingdom's 29 million women.

The fact that 88 per cent of senior executives and at least 75 per cent of middle management at the BBC are men has had a truly wretched effect on the balance of programming, damaging women's democracy, clothing women's views and perceptions in a blanket of silence, and effectively imposing censorship.

At the time of the Maastricht treaty, BBC TV failed to discuss in any significant measure the implications of the Social Chapter for women. During the April general election campaign it similarly ignored equal opportunities, a national system of childcare, equal pay for equal work, maternal benefits, part-time work, retraining, re-entry rights, widows and pensioners in poverty (mostly women).

This was despite letter after letter to the (male) hierarchy programmers at Television Centre requesting at least some air time on subjects which vitally concerned millions and millions of women. I can only think of one centre of power which has more damaged women's opportunities, as the record shows — Parliament itself.

Yours faithfully,
LESLEY ABDELA,
The Lodge,
Concok Manor, Wiltshire,
December 1.

From the Chief Executive of the Radio Authority

Sir, In its recent document, *Extending Choice* (report, November 27), the BBC joins us in using the terms "publicly funded broadcasting" and "commercially funded broadcasting". I welcome the distinction. The BBC, in its choice of terms, is acknowledging that as a publicly-funded broadcasting body it does not monopolise "public service broadcasting".

Independent radio has been providing public service broadcasting (PSB) for the 19 years of its existence. Trying to define what PSB is and should provide will only serve to confuse an important debate on the future of broadcasting.

The BBC is wise to avoid this. There will be strands of programming which the commercial sector is unlikely to provide: if the government believes they are important they should be publicly funded.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BALDWIN, Chief Executive,
The Radio Authority,
Holbrook House,
14 Great Queen Street, WC2,
December 1.

A cruel trade

From Mr Michael Maas

Sir, French farmers are on another rampage. I fear that, as has happened before, they will brutally attack and even burn alive lorry-loads of British sheep.

If John Gummer has any mercy, he will suspend live exports to France until the farmers have stopped rioting.

Gatt and the EC

From Mr F. Knox

Sir, The damage to world trade and economic growth if France blocks a Gatt agreement is widely recognised. Less well appreciated is the fundamental question such a development would raise for the constitution and prospects of the EC.

Economists have long recognised three degrees of economic integration between countries: a free trade area, which involves abolishing tariffs between member states; a customs union, which further imposes a common external tariff in relation to third countries and where non-tariff barriers are important, also necessarily involves a common commercial policy in regard to the outside world; and a common market, which involves, in addition to free movement of goods and services within the area, free movement of factors of production, labour and capital.

The EC has aimed from its earliest days at being at least a common market. At the customs union stage, there would be no question of negotiations in Gatt being the province of any body other than the EC Commission and Council of Ministers, and no question of negotiations being vetoed by one of the member governments.

What is the point of spending vast amounts of time and effort discussing further, more far-reaching, types of economic and political union if the EC has not yet successfully attained even the second, elementary, stage of economic union, a customs union?

Yours faithfully,
F. KNOX,
Trade and Tariffs Research,
5 Lynette Avenue, SW4,
December 4.

Business letters, page 34

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

From Mr David Royce

Sir, The emphasis laid by the BBC and others on the need for public-sector broadcasting to be ever more efficient in its use of resources is laudable. The Corporation and its critics ought not, however, to forget that, even at £30 a year the licence fee is no more than 22p a day.

For that sum, the Corporation provides two television channels, the quality of which can only be appreciated by someone like myself who has lived in other countries and suffered what they offer. Television apart, the Corporation provides at least four radio programmes, again of a quality which sets the standards for the competition. Whether looking or listening, the audience is not distracted by advertisements.

This does not mean that I begrudge the £3p a day that I pay for my Times, nor that I tune in only to the BBC; but it does suggest that the BBC is already not doing badly at providing value for money.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ROYCE,
5 Springmount Place, SW3.

From Dr David Brancher

Sir, A friend who is head of a primary school speaks, with horror, of the pseudo-violent playground behaviour of children, based on the images selected and presented by some television programmes. There is also evidence of the extent to which some police behaviour mimics that shown in fictitious programmes about the police force.

These are but examples: there cannot be a society whose values are not promoted (in both senses of the word) through the tales it tells. Nature follows art; and art (if that it be) now has a commercially funded medium, more powerful and pervasive than any in human history.

In the 1960s Buckminster Fuller referred to television as "the third parent": little did he appreciate that it would, for many, become the second or, in terms of influence, even the first.

Censorship in unthinkable, and commercial television will increasingly command the so-called forces of the so-called market. But, always, there must remain the establishment of a body committed to raising standards of behaviour, kindness, honesty, responsibility and service — yes, with pure entertainment and the enlargement of the imagination.

At its best, and at a fraction of the cost of formal education, the BBC represents the chance to learn to enjoy and to reach one's potential. It must be allowed to become even better at it, without thought of the conventional ratings. We cannot undermine it without adding to our social malaise.

Yours etc.,
D. M. BRANCHER,
Ashfield, Albany Road,
Abergavenny, Gwent.

But why tolerate this trade at all? It inflicts immense and prolonged suffering upon the wretched animals. The RSPCA and others have presented mountains of evidence to this effect.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MAAS,
Bingley Seat, Woodbank Road,
Stannington, Sheffield, S. Yorkshire,
December 3.

Tests stump adults

From Dr Henry Hardy

Sir, Yes, Mr Philpott-Kent's answers (letter, December 3) to the calculator questions set by the School Examinations and Assessment Council for seven-year-olds seem obvious — except for that mysterious drawing of a calculator display to the right of each question (report, November 18).

The numbers shown in these displays seem arbitrary and redundant — what Wittgenstein called "a wheel that turns without being part of the mechanism". Any number would do, and none is needed to solve the questions.

Why then are the displays included at all? My seven-year-old couldn't tell me. I think we should be told — perhaps by eight-year-old Rosie Enock whose letter you published under Mr Philpott-Kent's.

Yours etc.,
HENRY HARDY,
22 Norham Road, Oxford.

From Dr Richard Bloore

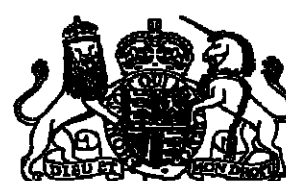
Sir, Assuming that Mr Philpott-Kent's answer is correct, the numbers displayed on the calculators act merely as a "red herring". What is more worrying is that the chief executive of SEAC appears unaware of the difference between algebra and arithmetic.

Yours faithfully,
R. D. S. BLOORE,
89 Hallburton Road, St Margaret's,
Twickenham, Middlesex.

From Mr B. S. Glyde

Sir, The letter from the chief executive of SEAC is disturbing. It seems we are not to mind deliberate obfuscation in examination questions, as teachers have plenty of time for explaining them to the children.

Yours faithfully,
B. S. GLYDE,
Many Bushes, London Road,
Uppingham, Rutland.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 5: The Duke of York, Patron, this morning attended the Falkland Islands Association's wreath-laying

Ceremony at the Cenotaph, Whitehall, London SW1.
Captain Rupert Maitland-Tinerton was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince and Princess of Wales will attend the Royal Variety Performance at Dominion Palace Theatre at 7.25.
The Princess Royal, as President of the British Olympic Association, will host a reception at Buckingham Palace at 6.30.
Princess Alexandra will attend a concert at the Festival Hall at 7.15 in aid of Red Cross assistance in the former Yugoslavia.

Birthdays today

Sir Fred Atkinson, civil servant, 73; Viscount Boyd of Merton, 53; Mr Donald Critchton-Miller, former headmaster, Fettes College and Stowe School, 60; Mr David Evans, trades unionist, 57; Mr Kalfie Fassett, textile designer, 55; Professor Sir Abraham Goldberg, physician, 69.
Professor N. Gower, principal, Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, 52; Sir Bryan Hopkin, civil servant, 78; Mr Victor Kiam, international president, Remington, 66; the Countess of Limerick, chairman, British Red Cross Society, 57; Mr Ivor Mills, writer and broadcaster, 63; Mr Sydney Samuelson, British Film Commission, 67; the Rev R.C. Tronson, former principal, St Chad's College, Durham, 66; Mr Eli Wallach, actor, 77; Miss Helen Watts, opera singer, 65.

Dinner

Association of Old Brightonians
Mr and Mrs G.W. Lees were the guests of honour at the annual dinner of the Association of Old Brightonians held on Saturday at Brighton College. Mr S.J. Cockburn, president, was in the chair and Mr J.D. Leach, headmaster, also spoke.

School news

St Albans School
The Governors of St Albans School have appointed Mr A.R. Grant, Second Master of the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, to be Headmaster of St Albans School in September 1993.
The Licensed Victuallers' School, Ascot
The Society of Licensed Victuallers is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Pamela Cowley as Head of the Licensed Victuallers' School, Ascot with effect from January 1993. Mrs Cowley is currently Acting Head at the school.

Windor Castle

The State Apartments, closed following the fire, are expected to reopen to the public early in the new year. It is hoped that by Easter, when the reworking work will be completed, all the State Apartments, apart from St George's Hall and the Grand Reception Room which were badly damaged in the fire, will be open as normal. The Gallery, the new exhibition area which opened in August, and Queen Mary's Dolls House were undamaged and reopened to the public last week. However the dolls house will be closed from January 1 until Easter for routine maintenance.

Cooks' Company

The following have been installed officers of the Cooks' Company for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr S.J. Herbage; Second Master, Mr R.F. Horne; Warden, Mr N.D. Phillips; Rector Warden, Mr J.B. Kane.

Gray's Inn

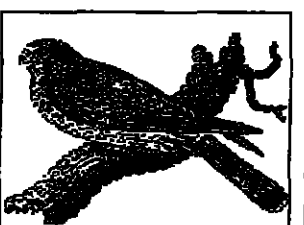
Sir John Vinson has been elected treasurer for 1993 in succession to Richard Stone, QC. Mr Charles Sparrow, QC, has been elected vice-treasurer.

Nature notes

ON FROSTY mornings, robins sing vigorously, looking up at them in the branches from directly beneath you might think they had white breasts, there is such a large area of white feathers below the red.

Blackbirds gather under the trees where the ground is not frozen so hard and there is a greater chance of pulling out an earthworm: it is ground-feeders like these which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

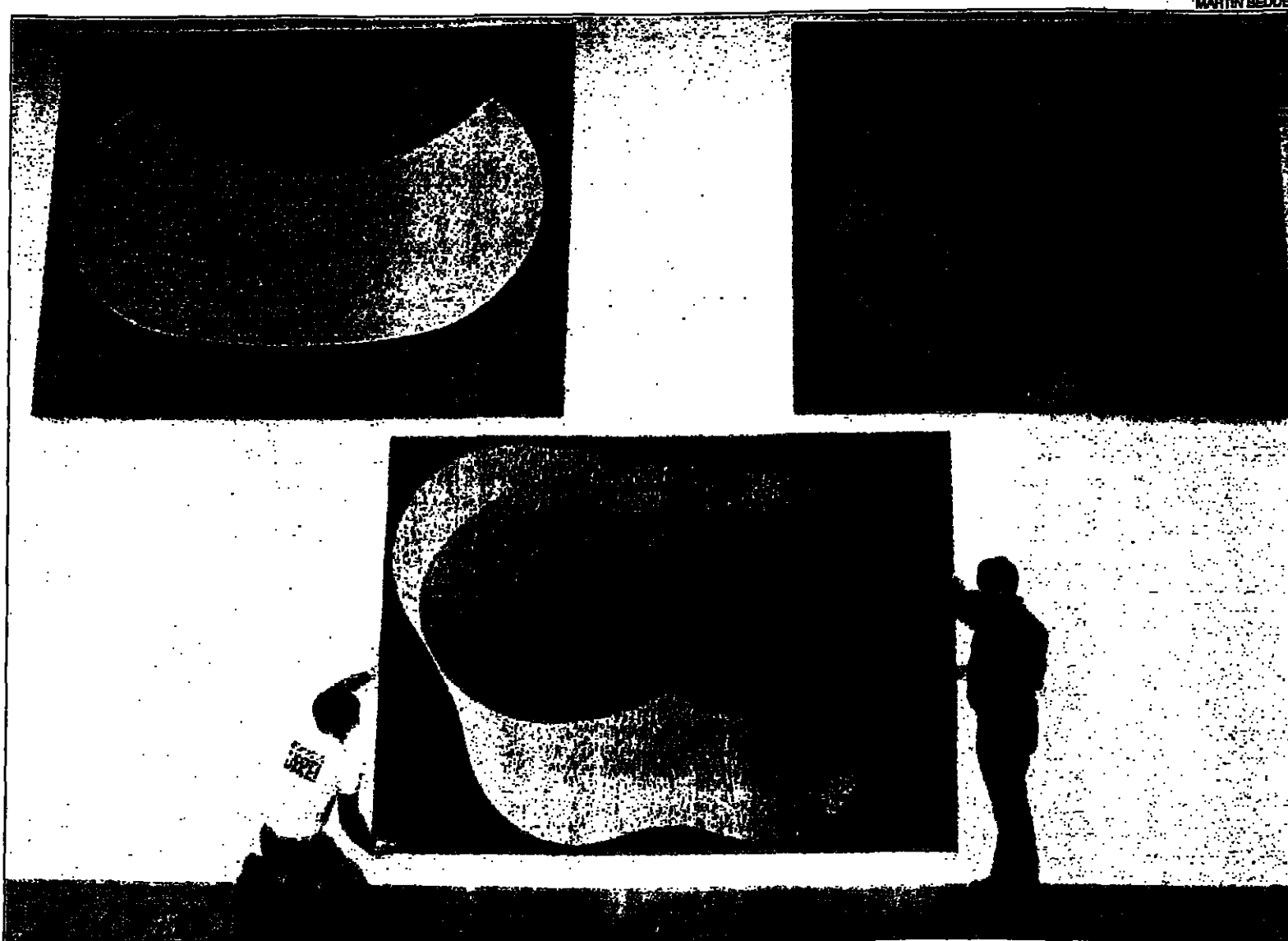
Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on in the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,



The kestrel

marble galls or oak-apples are conspicuous, now dry and brown and deserted by the gall-wasps which grew in them as grubs: the small hole in each shows where the wasp came out. Cods are exploited by about 500 species of insect, more than any other tree, but they rarely come to any harm by it.

DJM



Jet propelled: three of Tim Head's set of big scammed ink-jet pictures collectively called "Thirteen Most Wanted", featuring familiar but ambiguous shapes, being placed in the Lower Gallery of the Whitechapel Art Gallery, east London, for the artist's most comprehensive London exhibition so far. The show, which opens on Friday, continues until February 28

Carter's grave

cursed by
obscurity

By NORMAN HAMMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

AN APPEAL has been launched in America to restore the grave of Howard Carter, the archaeologist who discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun 70 years ago. Dr Paul Bahn, writing in the widely circulated magazine *Archaeology*, asks for "the generosity of some patron or institution" to carry out the work.

Howard Carter, who died in 1939, is buried at Putney Vale Cemetery, southwest London, in a "nondescript" grave. Dr Bahn says: "Its stone surround is broken and, worse, the simple inscription on the headstone — Howard Carter, Archaeologist and Egyptologist, 1874-1939 — is barely legible."

Carter's irascible and uncompromising personality resulted in him being more or less ignored once the excitement of the excavation was over. Although his name has remained synonymous in the public mind with the romance of archaeology, "he lies in crumbling and fading obscurity," Dr Bahn says. "Perhaps that was the young pharaoh's curse."

Mod celebrates its centenary royally

By ANGUS NICOL

A HUNDRED years ago An Communn Gaidhealach held the first National Mod. An Communn Gaidhealach was founded in Oban in 1890-1 to "initiate in the Highlands a national festival on lines similar to those of the Welsh Eisteddfod". In its centenary year, the Mod was for the first time Mod Naiseanta Rìghail (the Royal National Mod).

The piping events attracted large numbers of contestants in both senior and junior sections. The junior fiddle competitions were also popular. But the senior fiddle and accordion events drew very few entrants.

The piping events bring in a lot of competitors who do not appear at the major piping competitions during the year, as well as a few well-known pipers whose names figure in the prize lists at Oban and Inverness. They dominated the Mod piping also.

The Ceòl Mòr event was of mixed standards. A few competitors did not seem well enough acquainted with the details of their tunes, while some others never had their pipes properly in tune. But there were yet others to whom it was a pleasure to listen. Pipe Major Angus MacDonald

gave a good performance of The MacDougalls' Gathering to start the afternoon and also to take first prize. Leslie Hunt, who played next, took second prize with The Big Spree. Third prize went to Angus MacColl, for his performance of The Unjust Incarceration.

The senior march, strathspey and reel was won by Corporal Gordon Walker, the only serving army piper competing. Second prize was taken by Angus MacColl, and third by William MacCallum. There were three junior Ceòl Beag events. The under-18 march was won by Allan MacColl. There was a march event for pipers under 15, won by Gordon MacLean. The under-18 strathspey and reel was won by Neil Stewart.

This year there was a new competition, for hornpipe and jig, also divided into senior and junior sections. The prizes were provided by the Argyle-shire Gathering to encourage piping and to mark the Gathering's links with the Mod. This was the thirteenth Mod to take place in Oban, and the Gathering's Hall has been the scene of some memorable musical events at each of them. There was a large entry for both sections of the horn-

pipe and jig competition, and the standard of playing was most impressive. In the senior section, Corporal Gordon Walker won first prize with a brilliantly performed set. Closely behind him came Angus MacColl, and Pipe Major Angus MacDonald in third place. First prize in the junior section was won by Allan MacColl, to crown a very successful year. Second prize was taken by Tony Campbell, and third by Euan MacCrimmon.

Full results
Ceòl Mòr: 1 PM Angus MacDonald, 2 Leslie Hunt, 3 Angus MacColl.
Ceòl Beag: senior: 1 Gordon Walker, 2 Angus MacColl, 3 William MacCallum.
March: under 18: 1 Allan MacColl, 2 John Maclean, 3 Neil Stewart and Scott Armstrong.

March: under 15: 1 Gordon MacLean, 2 Derek Macdonald, 3 Andrew Wallace.
Strathspey and reel: 1 Neil Stewart, 2 Angus MacColl, 3 Neil Walker and Iain Macdonald.

Fiddle: seniors: 1 Maurice Duncan, 2 John Maclean, 3 Tony Campbell.
Fiddle: juniors: 1 Dean O'Rourke, 2 Ruaraidh Campbell, 3 Eilidh Campbell.

Fiddle: under 18: 1 Lynsey Joss, 2 Joseph Ballanvay, 3 Neil Ferguson.
Fiddle groups: junior: Oban Fiddle Group.

Fiddle groups: senior: 1 Duncan's Inverness fiddlers, 2 An Fèidhich, 3 The Fiddlers of Oban.
Piano: John Duff (only one entrant).
Accordion: 1 Lindsay Weir (only two entrants).

Senior: 1 Angus MacPhail, 2 Neil MacPhail, 3 Sarah Bell.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Gian Benini, sculptor, Naples, 1958; Allan Cummings, writer, Kair, Dumfriesshire, 1784; Sir Redvers Buller, VC, general, Crediton, Devon, 1839; Sir Joseph Cook, Prime Minister of Australia 1913-14, Silverdale, Staffordshire, 1860; Pietro Mascagni, composer, Leghorn, 1863; Willa Cather, novelist, Winchester, Virginia, 1873; Rudolf Friml, composer, Prague, 1879; Stuart Davis, painter, Philadelphia, 1894.

DEATHS: Marcus Tullius Cicero, Roman orator and statesman, executed, Formia, Italy, 43 BC; Meindert Hobbema, landscape painter, Amsterdam, 1709; Michel Ney, commander of Napoleon's Old Guard, shot for high treason, Paris, 1815; William Bigh, admiral, Captain of HMS *Bounty*, London, 1817; John Flaxman, sculptor, London, 1826; Edward Irving, founder of the Holy Catholic Apostolic Church, Glasgow, 1834; Vicomte Ferdinand de Lesseps, promoter of the Suez Canal, La Chaux-de-Fonds, 1894; Kirsten Flagstad, soprano, Oslo, 1962; Thornton Wilder, novelist and dramatist, New Haven, Connecticut, 1955; Robert Graves, poet and novelist, Majorca, 1955; Roy Orbison, singer, Nashville, Tennessee, 1988. William Pitt the Younger, aged 24, became the youngest British Prime Minister, 1783.

Election

Mr Jeffrey Rose, Chairman of the Royal Automobile Club, has been elected as a Vice President of the Institute of the Motor Industry for 1992-3. He has also been appointed a member of the advisory council of the Prince of Wales's Youth Business Trust.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.P. Dodworth and Mrs J.M.E. Perry-Warner announced the engagement of their only son of Colston and Mrs C.P. Dodworth, of Stenbridge, Somerset, and Judith Perry-Warner (née Seymour), of Dewlish, Dorset.

Mr C.S. Foden and Miss E.M. Preece announced the engagement of their son, Mr David Foden, of Waplington, Northamptonshire, and Mrs Judy Preece, of London, and Emily, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Preece, of Plas Llanddylan, Anglesey.

Lieutenant J.S. Neely and Dr F.G. Savage announced the engagement of their son, Mr David Neely, of Waplington, Northamptonshire, and Mrs Judy Preece, of London, and Emily, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Preece, of Plas Llanddylan, Anglesey.

Mr J.J. Tebb and Miss A.C. Odome announced the engagement of their son, Mr Jonathan Tebb, of the late Mr Charles Tebb and of Mrs Tebb, of Abbey House, Louth, Lincolnshire, and Annabel, daughter of Mr Tim Odome and the late Mrs Ann Odome, of Garden House, Kimpton, Hampshire.

Mr D.M.P. Wellman and Miss C. Laiff announced the engagement of their son, Mr David Wellman, of East Molesey, Surrey, and Caroline, daughter of Mr A. Laiff, of Richmond, Surrey, and Mrs J. Wood, of Perth, Western Australia.

Mr C.P.A. Weston and Dr L.P. Taggart announced the engagement of their son, Mr Charles Weston, of Longcot, Oxfordshire, and Lucy, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs M. Taggart, of Borough Green, Kent.

Mr M.D.C. Watkins and Miss S.F. Bradley-Williams announced the engagement of their son, Mr M.D.C. Watkins, of Longcot, Oxfordshire, and Lucy, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs M. Taggart, of Borough Green, Kent.

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TEL: 071 481 4000

FAX: 071 481 9313

PERSONAL COLUMN

BIRTHS

CARDEN - On November 23rd, to Mr and Mrs J. Carden, a son, James Alexander Frederick John.

CHADWICK - On November 2nd, to Mr and Mrs J. Chadwick, a son, James Alexander Frederick John.

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Non-league clubs keep Cup hopes alive

Why put a good film on the stage?

GPA's plan for debt rescheduling cleared for takeoff

THE TIMES

2

MONDAY DECEMBER 7 1992

Gollop makes the most of outside chance



Driving force: A late switch in starting position gave Will Gollop, from Whitstable in Kent, victory on a treacherous track ahead of his fellow Britons, John Welch and Barry Squibb, at the

Autoglass British Rally Cross grand prix at Brands Hatch yesterday (Stephen Slater writes). Gollop, driving a turbo-charged MG Metro 6R4, had qualified for pole

position for the final, but in view of the track conditions he opted to start from the outside of the track rather than the customary inside position. It was a decision soon to be vindicated.

As the lights turned to green, Gollop's principal rival, Squibb, slithered across the track, narrowly avoiding the barriers on both sides of the tarmac. Gollop took advantage to pull into an uncontested

lead as Squibb fought to regain control of his 500-horsepower Ford Escort X-Trak. Squibb eventually recovered to take third place as Gollop, 42, claimed his third victory in the event.

McEnroe goes out with a bang

Fort Worth: Helping the United States to win the Davis Cup would be a fitting farewell to competitive tennis for John McEnroe. His role in the final against Switzerland here may be restricted to playing doubles, but at 33 McEnroe has lost none of his inspirational qualities.

On Saturday, it was his words as much as his actions which turned the final in favour of the Americans after Jakob Hlasek and Marc Rosset had taken a two sets to love lead over McEnroe and Pete Sampras. McEnroe took advantage of a ten-minute break at the end of the third set to rally his partner and their 6-7, 6-7, 7-5, 6-1, 6-2 victory meant the United States needed to win only one of last night's reverse singles to take the cup. McEnroe has been part of a winning American team three times already — in 1979, 1981 and 1982 — and is the most successful American player in Davis Cup history with 41 singles wins and 18 doubles successes.

Sampras said McEnroe had stormed into the locker-room during the break for an emotional pep talk. "Mac in the locker room was so pumped up, just ranting and raving, and we went out there and played extremely good tennis," Sampras said. "It was just a matter of time before we got a couple of breaks. The last two sets was the best doubles I've ever played."

Swiss hopes had been raised by Rosset's victory over Jim Courier, in Friday's singles, but Courier can clinch the final by beating Hlasek.

Simon Barnes, page 21

Cantona's presence provides a spur as Manchester United enjoy derby supremacy

Cup draw lands plum tie

VS RUGBY and Marlow, the non-League sides who meet in a delayed FA Cup second-round tie on Wednesday, have been given an extra incentive to progress. The third-round draw yesterday has handed the winner a plum home tie against Tottenham Hotspur, eight-times winners of the competition.

The holders, Liverpool, must travel to the second division club, Bolton, to begin their defence of the cup when the third round is played in the first week of January.

The draw threw up some intriguing pairings. Arsenal, whose Premier League hopes have nosedived of late, must travel to either Yeovil or Hereford, both of whom are noted gankers.

Wigan, from the second division, and Bury, from the third, meet in the second round to see who goes to Old Trafford to take on Manchester United.

The Premier League leaders, Norwich City, face Coventry, from the same division. Similarly, Chelsea visit Middlesbrough, Nottingham Forest host Southampton and Wimbledon face Everton.

DRAW

Nottingham Forest v Southampton
Brentford v Gillingham
Manchester United v Wigan or Bury
Southampton v Middlesbrough
Middlesbrough v Chelsea
Coventry v Watford
Wimbledon v West Ham
Exeter or Swindon v Oxford
Hartlepool v Crystal Palace
Gillingham v Colchester or Huddersfield
Sheff Wed v Burnley or Shrewsbury
Aston Villa v Bristol Rovers
Cardiff v Shrewsbury
Bath City or Northampton v Rotherham
Derby v Stockport
Queens Park Rangers v Swindon
Leeds v Charlton
Luton v Barnsley
Walsley v Wolves
Yeovil or Hereford v Arsenal
Luton v Bristol City
Norwich v Coventry
Oxford v Tranmere
Newcastle v Port Vale
Worcester v Exeter
Manchester City v Reading
Birmingham v Portsmouth
Blackburn v Charlton or Bournemouth
Bristol v Plymouth or Peterborough
Worcester v Shrewsbury
Bristol v Luton
VS Rugby or Marlow v Tottenham Hotspur
This to be played on January 2, 3 or 4

Manchester United 2
Manchester City 1

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

MARK Hughes is sweeping away the black clouds that were supposed to be gathering over his future at Old Trafford. With his third goal in successive games, the Welshman yesterday settled the Manchester derby and his own place at the top of his club's hierarchy of forwards.

Even before Eric Cantona was bought from Leeds United, Hughes had been the subject of a £2 million offer from Newcastle United. Although it was immediately and emphatically rejected, rumours persisted that he might soon be leaving. On form, though, he is indispensable, and McClair is instead more likely to be sacrificed should the French maverick become a regular feature in the line-up.

Cantona made a brief, and almost wholly irrelevant, appearance as a substitute yesterday, coming on after the interval for Giggs, who damaged tendons in a foot. But though Giggs's absence would leave a convenient vacancy, Alex Ferguson would doubtless prefer to maintain the balance and the belief of his front line.

It has been restored just in time. A sequence of seven fixtures without a victory and with only four goals had left the impression that United were losing their way in the inaugural Premier League championship.

The win over their neighbours, which was more convincing than the score might indicate, was their third in a row. United have climbed back into fifth place, nine points off the pace, and their match next Saturday, again at Old Trafford, will be especially heavy in significance. The visitors are the leaders, Norwich City. United must close the gap if they are to complete

making a shot, and this left the three contenders in an election for two positions to parade their credentials side by side during the second half.

Hughes was the one to profit, scoring a characteristic goal, as stylish as Ince's in the first half, to put United two up with just over a quarter of an hour to go.

Statistically, on past performances, this means that Hughes, with eight league goals and a tendency to score spectacularly rather than regularly, may have further expended his ration for the season. Alex Ferguson said afterwards, more optimistically, that maybe Hughes was heading for his best season.

The place of McClair, who has scored only three times and yesterday moved into the space on the right flank vacated by Giggs, must be the more vulnerable.

However, neither Hughes nor Cantona is particularly noted for a capacity to blend with others, so an easy solution for Ferguson, to what he regards as a welcome problem, is

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester United	18	12	3	3	34	31	39
Blackburn	18	8	7	3	28	15	31
A Villa	18	8	7	3	28	15	31
Chelsea	18	9	4	5	28	20	31
Man Utd	18	8	4	20	13	30	
QPR	18	8	5	5	25	19	29
Arsenal	18	9	2	7	22	19	29
Leeds	18	5	11	2	24	21	26
Liverpool	17	7	4	6	30	24	25
Man City	18	7	4	7	25	19	25
Coventry	18	6	7	5	23	24	25
Middlesbrough	18	6	6	6	30	29	24
Southampton	18	5	7	6	17	19	22
Tottenham	18	5	7	6	18	24	22
Leeds	18	5	6	7	29	22	21
Sheff Wed	18	4	8	6	20	22	20
Sheff Utd	18	4	6	8	20	18	18
Sheff Utd	18	4	6	8	17	25	18
Everton	17	4	8	5	13	21	18
Wimbledon	18	3	8	7	20	25	15
Cardiff	18	2	9	7	22	32	15
Nottm For	18	3	5	10	17	28	14

their own recovery and tuck themselves in among the genuine contenders. Otherwise, the impetus they gained on a rain-soaked afternoon will once more be lost.

It was built principally by the all-embracing contribution of Ince. As well as

dismissing the physical aggression of McMahon, he prompted the attack, assisted the defence and crowned a sparkling individual display by putting United ahead.

In the twentieth minute McMahon committed one of the fouls which littered the predictably fiery and disjointed occasion. He clattered into Robson, who chose to take the free kick himself. Hughes manoeuvred it into the crowded area, where Bruce rolled it deliberately back to Ince. With a crisp, left-foot drive, he scored his first goal since March.

Ince was no less responsible for smothering City's more limited ideas, and particularly when he ran some 60 yards to end a swift counter-attack led by White. United's domination of the first half was otherwise pierced only by Simpson's attempt, which was dragged wide of a post.

United's shape had to be altered with McClair moving out to Giggs's role on the right

flank. Although Cantona started with one measured cross for Hughes, the rest of his debut was negligible.

When Reid decided to bring himself on midway through the second half, the event was more balanced. The names of Phelan and McMahon, for yet another ill-timed assault, were added to that of Holden in the referee's notebook before United extended their lead in the 73rd minute.

Hill's headed clearance fell on to the chest of Hughes, who brushed aside a challenge before unleashing a characteristically spectacular volley. City responded within 60 seconds. As White challenged Schmeichel for a cross, the ball fell kindly for Quinn, who prodded in only his second goal this season. It was no more than a mere consolation.

MANCHESTER UNITED: P Schmeichel, P Parker, D Ince, S Bruce, I Sherry, G Patterson, B Robson, P Ince, B McClair, M Hughes, R Quinn (sub: E Cantona). MANCHESTER CITY: A Collins, I Bignall, T Phelan, S McMahon, K Curtis, A Hill, D White, M Shearer (sub: G Fazez), N Quinn, F Simpson (sub: P Reid), R Holden. Referee: G Ashby.

Reid's explanation afterwards, at a brief press conference, about the timing of his entrance was so sarcastically dismissive as to make the conference valueless. But within a minute of Hughes's goal, Quinn had reduced the margin and United were left with an anxious closing stage, attempting to keep out a City side now playing far more in keeping with their position in the table.

Bruce, prostrate on the pitch for several minutes, got up to continue valiantly with United under the whip and it was to Hughes's relief, above all, when Schmeichel somehow kept out shots by Hill and White and the last whistle finally arrived.

World Cup bid claims

Karachi: Pakistan cricket officials claimed yesterday that the joint bid of Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka to host the 1995 World Cup was larger financially than England's. Pakistan's offer is believed to match the £5 million of England but had been thought to be worth marginally less. The International Cricket Council will decide the venue on February 2. (AFP) Security worries, page 21

THE SINGLETON MALT WHISKY HAS INTOXICATED THE JUDGES.

Malt whisky juries have long been falling over themselves to praise The Singleton. In the last six years it has won no fewer than eight major international awards.

What makes this richer, fuller single malt so special? Could it be the damp, misty climate of Auchroisk?

Or the remarkably pure spring waters of Dorie's Well? Or the unique maturing process in Spanish sherry casks?

Whatever it is, there can be no finer pastime than sitting down with a glass and deciding for yourself.



THE
SINGLETON
OF
AUCHROISK

Briton pays dearly for scorecard error

Frost cashes in on disqualifications of Faldo and Price

FROM OUR SPORTS STAFF IN SUN CITY, SOUTH AFRICA

DAVID Frost won the \$1 million challenge title here in South Africa yesterday, but his victory was overshadowed by the disqualifications of Nick Faldo and Nick Price.

Frost, a South African, took golf's richest prize after a final round of 69 for a 12-under-par total of 276. John Cook, of the United States, finished four strokes behind and Ernie Els, of South Africa, and the American, Fred Couples, finished joint third on 284.

Frost went into the final round virtually assured of victory after the disqualification on Saturday of Price, who shared the third-round lead, and Faldo, Price, who won the US PGA championship this year, was scratched from the field when he refused to sign his scorecard, losing his temper at having a two-stroke penalty imposed.

Faldo, the world No. 1, was disqualified for submitting an incorrect scorecard which showed the correct total of 72 for his round but recorded a par four for the final hole when the correct score was five.

Faldo admitted yesterday that his disqualification served him right. "I guess the heat of the day got to the top of my head," Faldo, the Open champion, said. "I'm very disappointed — it's a bit of a shock."

"It was a real 100 per cent screw-up. It's a lot of bucks but it serves me right," Faldo's playing partner, Bernhard Langer, had filled in a par four for the final hole instead of the five which Faldo took.

Faldo said he had no hard feelings towards the German. "It was my mistake," he said. "It's the first time in my career that I've done it. It's not the right tournament to do it in either."

Langer acknowledged his mistake. "I'm sorry about it but I didn't do it on purpose. It's terrible," he said. Faldo has had a torrid time here this week, being involved in another rules dispute with Els during the second round.

Faldo was last disqualified from a tournament when he infringed rules during the 1984 European Open, held at Sunningdale.

Price, of Zimbabwe, became

involved in controversy at the 11th hole, where his caddy moved an advertising sign standing between his second shot and the green. An official told him moving the sign was a violation of local rules but he could take relief by dropping his ball a club length away.

Price said he and Frost, his playing partner, put the incident behind them and went on to score 68s, the best rounds of the day. But when Price handed in his scorecard, a tournament official asked about the sign incident, an offence carrying a two-stroke penalty.

Price was incensed by the penalty and erased his signature on his card. He wanted a second opinion. But Buddy Young, the senior tournament director, ruled that he had handed in an unsigned card.

Price said that after he had cooled down about an hour later, he told Young he was willing to accept the penalty but Young "would not give me the benefit of the doubt".

"I've done nothing wrong," Price said. "That's why I'm hurting so much. I was really, really cross. I'm still very hot over it."

Officials said yesterday that they tried to find a way of reinstating Price. Young said he had given Price a second chance by seeking advice from the Royal and Ancient Club, golf's ruling body.

But when he telephoned St Andrews for a second opinion, he was told all officials were at a meeting and could not be contacted. Young criticised the R and A for not having an official available at weekends.

The disqualifications left only eight players in the field, with Frost starting the final round four strokes in front.

FINAL SCORES: 276: D Frost (SA), 70, 69, 69, 68; 282: J Cook (US), 73, 69, 70, 69; 284: F Couples (US), 74, 70, 73, 67; E Els (SA), 70, 68, 77, 68; 285: B Langer (Ger), 73, 68, 70, 74; 286: J MacGregor (GB), 73, 73, 74, 286; I Wootton (GB), 75, 75, 73, 287; C Perry (Aus), 74, 75, 75, 72.



Signing off: Faldo deals with the bad news on Saturday



Money-spinner: Frost celebrates his victory in the \$1 million challenge yesterday

Allenby confirms Thomson's belief in his potential

FROM MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN MELBOURNE

ROBERT Allenby, of Australia, yesterday came off age at 21 when he won the Johnnie Walker Classic in the manner of a true champion with a 72 in the final round at Royal Melbourne.

Allenby captured the Aus\$126,000 first prize with a performance which supported the theory that he is destined to follow in the footsteps of his

compatriot, Greg Norman, and achieve an eminent position in the world game.

He started a blustery afternoon four shots in front of Peter Senior, sprinted further ahead with a birdie at each of the final three holes and his aggregate of 275, 13 under par, earned for him a famous win by five shots from Senior. Vijay Singh, of Fiji, finished on 283 to take third place.

Allenby was out in 33 and although he dropped two shots at the 11th, where he

drove into bushes, was never seriously challenged. He holed out with immense confidence throughout the tournament.

"I expected to be nervous, but I set out to play sensible golf," he said. "I have made no secret of the fact that I am ambitious and I want to be the No. 1."

With this, his first victory in his native country, Allenby went to the top of the Australian order of merit. He also gained the final invitation to the Johnnie Walker world

championship, which starts in Jamaica on Thursday week, and an exemption to the Open Championship at Royal St George's next July.

He intends to compete in Europe again in 1993, after finishing 86th on the Volvo Tour this year, when he played in only 11 tournaments. He gave an indication of his potential when runner-up to Nick Faldo in the Scandinavian Masters.

Peter Thomson, five-times Open champion, believes that

Allenby's swing is technically correct and that he could be invincible when he develops weight and muscle. His emergence is remarkable because only a year ago he was still an amateur, when he came within a whisker of winning the Australian Open, also at Royal Melbourne.

His father, Don, was a member at Sand Moor, in Leeds, before emigrating to Australia. Allenby became a professional without a cent to his name but his first success

came in his 23rd start when he won the Perak Masters in Malaysia in October.

James Spence had a 74 to finish the leading British player on 287.

LEADING FINAL SCORES (Australia unless stated): 275: R Allenby, 65, 68, 69, 72; 282: P Senior, 72, 71, 64, 75; 283: V Singh (Ind), 71, 67, 70, 75; 284: L Wootton (GB), 71, 67, 70, 75; 285: B Langer (Ger), 73, 68, 70, 74; 286: J MacGregor (GB), 73, 73, 74, 286; I Wootton (GB), 75, 75, 73, 287; C Perry (Aus), 74, 75, 75, 72.

Weather challenges amateur crewmen

Punta Arenas, Chile: The effects of extreme cold and seasickness are taking their toll on some of the 130 amateur crew members in the British Steel Challenge round-the-world race as they battle head winds in the South Pacific en route to Tasmania (Barry Pickhall writes).

Lisa Wood, 33, from Surrey, sailing aboard Hestia insured, said yesterday: "If it gets any colder, I'm going to super-glue myself to my bunk. It is so cold and wet that I will have to have my thermal clothing surgically removed in Hobart."

Vivien Cherry, the Coopers & Lybrand skipper, said that one crew member had been sick since the start of this second leg from Rio de Janeiro three weeks ago. "He has lost about a stone in weight."

Ian MacGillivray, the skipper of Pride of Teesside, which is sailing without navigation lights because of a shortage of bulbs, said: "We are well-in along at ten knots, with the decks constantly awash."

Cherry said that sea temperatures were 6C, but head winds of 25-27 knots were bringing temperatures down to freezing point. "The good news is that we have averaged 7.3 knots since rounding the Horn last week. If we can keep this up, we will be in Hobart by Boxing Day."

LEADING POSITIONS (at 15:00 GMT yesterday, with miles to Hobart): 1, Hestia (Coopers & Lybrand), 4,276 miles; 2, Commercial Union (P. MacGillivray), 4,361; 3, Coopers & Lybrand (V. Cherry), 4,385; 4, Hestia (I. MacGillivray), 4,405; 5, British Steel (H. Cherry), 4,420; 6, Hestia (I. MacGillivray), 4,420; 7, Pride of Teesside (I. MacGillivray), 4,420; 8, Group 4 Securities (M. Golding), 4,497; 9, Interspace (P. Jellett), 4,528; 10, Hestia (I. MacGillivray), 4,551.

Storm in trialists' tea cup

THE Sports Council will be asked to look at the implications of time-trialists drinking excessive amounts of tea or coffee in unpaired events of 12 hours and 24 hours (Peter Bryan writes).

This follows a rider being above the limit for caffeine after the national 24 hours championship last June. The rider was not named by the sport's major controlling organisation, the Road Time Trials Council (RTTC), nor was he suspended.

The recommendation by the Sports Council that sportsmen should not drink more than

three cups of tea or coffee before competition may be amended because no other Olympic sport lasts 12 hours non-stop, during which riders drink more than a gallon of fluid.

The RTTC rules make it an offence to show more than 12 micrograms/ml of caffeine in a sample. The proposed talks between the RTTC and the Sports Council may seek to have the limit possibly raised in events of 12 hours or more.

Yesterday's annual meeting at Peterborough decided there will be out-of-season testing next year.

Inman's licence withdrawn

THE British Judo Association (BJA) has withdrawn the licence of Roy Inman, the former manager of the British women's team, after a board of inquiry into alleged financial irregularities (a Special Correspondent writes).

George Kerr, chairman of the BJA, said: "The matter is now in hands of the Leicestershire police."

Inman said he is consulting his solicitors. "I categorically state that I have not knowingly been responsible for any financial irregularities for personal gain, and the decision of the board of directors to withdraw my BJA licence seems totally inappropriate," he said.

Inman resigned after his squad won one silver and two bronze medals at the Barcelona Olympics.

Kerr's statement was issued during the national championships at Crystal Palace on Saturday, when Nicola Fairbrother, despite suffering from nerves, made a distinguished return to domestic competition after winning a silver in the lightweight category at Barcelona. A win with a leg grab restored her confidence, and she easily swept through the preliminary rounds before beating Natalie Evans, of Wolverhampton, with a strangle in the final.

The light-heavyweight women's category saw the Olympic middleweight bronze medal-winner, Kate Howey, establish a new dominance, using her fireman's lift throw with spectacular results.

Results, page 26

Faultless display from Bost

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN BORDEAUX

ROGER Yves Bost and a rejuvenated Norton de Rhuy won the Volvo World Cup qualifier at the Bordeaux international show yesterday after three faultless rounds in front of an unashamedly partisan crowd.

The win, Bost's second in the competition in three years, underlines his horse's return to fitness after eight months out of work earlier this year. The 13-year-old gelding, who helped France to win the world championship in 1990, injured muscles in his back and had to miss the Olympic Games. He returned to competition in September and immediately won the Paris Grand Prix.

The former Great Britain rider, Peter Charles, who now

rides for Ireland, produced a superb performance from his new horse, Royal Chocolate, owned by Denise Stamp, to finish second. Charles bought the impressive German-bred gelding from Finland in October after seeing a videotape of him.

They were fourth in the Berlin World Cup qualifier last month and yesterday had the satisfaction of relegating Eric Navet and Quino de Baussey, the world and European champions, to third place.

The best British performance came from Veronique Whitaker, on Henderson F1 Amour, who reached the first jump-off where they hit the first fence. Even so, Whitaker, who has not been invited to

compete at Olympia next week, is, at 21st, the highest placed British rider in the Western European league for the World Cup.

The only other Briton to go clear over Bernard Basque's opening round was Robert Smith on Ties Hanauer. They then had eight faults in the first jump-off but Smith had plenty of consolation for this disappointment.

A win on Saturday with his brilliant speed horse, Clover, and second place in the speed class yesterday added nearly £5,000 to his purse.

WORLD CUP QUALIFIER: 1, Norton de Rhuy (R. Yves Bost, France), 1 fault, in 53.01; 2, Royal Chocolate (P. Charles, Ireland), 0, 34.16; 3, Quino de Baussey (E. Navet, France), 4, 35.14; 4, Henderson F1 Amour (V. Whitaker, Great Britain), 1, 35.14; 5, Ties Hanauer (R. Smith, Great Britain), 8, 35.14; 6, Ties Hanauer (R. Smith, Great Britain), 8, 35.14; 7, Ties Hanauer (R. Smith, Great Britain), 8, 35.14; 8, Ties Hanauer (R. Smith, Great Britain), 8, 35.14; 9, Ties Hanauer (R. Smith, Great Britain), 8, 35.14; 10, Ties Hanauer (R. Smith, Great Britain), 8, 35.14; 11, Ties Hanauer (R. Smith, Great Britain), 8, 35.14; 12, Ties Hanauer (R. Smith, Great Britain), 8, 35.14; 13, Ties Hanauer (R. Smith, Great Britain), 8, 35.14; 14, Ties Hanauer (R. Smith, Great Britain), 8, 35.14; 15, Ties Hanauer (R. Smith, Great Britain), 8, 35.14; 16, Ties Hanauer (R. Smith, Great Britain), 8, 35.14; 17, Ties Hanauer (R. Smith, Great Britain), 8, 35.14; 18, Ties Hanauer (R. 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5. Second Program

When sport serves only as a substitute for war

The match lasted for five sets and close on five hours, and was conducted in an atmosphere of utter frenzy. "The 11,417 in attendance checked their tennis etiquette 'at the door,'" the *Fort Worth Star Telegraph* reported. Examples: every service fault was



Fired by patriotic fervour: Rosset, left, celebrates taking a point off Courier on his way to a five-set, five-hour victory, while McEnroe and Agassi fly the flag in a losing cause

After that colossal second match, Courter gave a brief yupo-nopress conference. He looked ready for the firing squad. Did you feel you had the momentum before the break, Jim? "Yes." How did you play, Jim? "Poorly." Do you have trouble in Davis Cup because of the atmosphere? "Possibly." Did the Swiss fans beat you? "Good question, buddy. That's pretty brilliant." Goodnight, Jim.

There were more than a thousand Swiss in the stadium, wafting

UNITED STATES

United States names first

Singles

A Agassi vs J Hiseek
6-1, 6-2, 6-3

J Courier lost to M Rosset
3-6, 7-6, 6-3, 4-6, 4-6

Doubles

J McEnroe and P Sampras bt
Hiseek and Rosset
6-7, 6-7, 7-5, 6-1, 6-2

Singles

Courier v Hiseek
Agassi v Rosset

United States lead 2-1

tennis player so shattered by a defeat. In tennis, defeat is normally a personal affair: it is a private thing, and it is up to you to laugh it off and live it down as you see fit. In Davis Cup, defeat is shared, and it is not diminished but hopelessly magnified by the sharing. You have let your team down: you have let your country down.

Bad-mouthing the opposition is an American tradition — not a very attractive one, it must be said.

McEnroe raised himself to a pitch of frenzy, screaming at a line judge, milking the crowd for all he

The players slugged it out in a trance of intensity. They played as if they had been told that the loser would be taken out and shot.

unreachable cobra-strike forehead, snapping across the net at an impossible angle. Rosset was broken, the dream in tatters.

Then followed a ten-minute break. "Mac was in the locker room, pumped up," Sampras said. "He was ranting and raving." Yes, but what exactly did he say, Pete? Sampras smiled apologetically.

No sport is about athletic ability alone. Every competition is also, to some extent, an examination of a player's courage. When the stakes are so impossibly, so ludicrously high, that examination is soul-deep, searching and cruel. To witness such an examination is to feel nothing less than embarrassment, as if such self-revelation were less than decent.

I can only leave the final words to John Wesley Hardin. "Here I wish to tell my readers that if there is any power to save a man, woman or child from harm outside the power of the Living God, it is this thing called pluck. I never was afraid of anything except ghosts and I have lived that down now, and they have no terrors for me."

SNOOKER

White and Davis all square

BY MICHAEL COLEMAN

BY PHIL YATES

NEW ZEALAND: B R Hartland, J G Wright, A H Jones, M D Crowe, K R Rutherford, C Z Harris, T A C Parore, M L Sutherland, G E Bridgman, C Pingo, M B Owens
Umpires: T M Samarasinghe and I Arandappa.

Test match over Christmas.
Both cities are in the same
region where a hand grenade

Wasim wa

Extra security staff will ring the boundary edge to stop spectators running onto the

aps it up wit

Springer, Bakken scored 273

h hat-trick

overseas "Agencies)		
AUSTRALIA		
M A Taylor run out		0
D C Boon c Murray b Bishop		6
M D Jones c Curramina b Simmons		14
S R Waugh c Hooper b Simmons		4
M E Waugh st Murray b Hooper		38
"A R Border run out		15
G R J Matthews c Richardson b Hooper		32
T I A Healy not out		21
P R Parfitt not out		9

Reynolds vo

Wants to return

At that point, the capacity crowd of 1,000 must have

RESULTS: First round: A McManus (Scot) bt T. Griffiths (Wales), 9-7; J Wattana (Thai) bt D Morgan (Wales), 9-7. Quarter-finals: J White (Eng) level with S Davis (Eng), 4-4. --

Wasim wraps it up with hat-trick

minutes, including two towering sixes, as the World Cup holders gave full value to a crowd of 2,500 — ten per cent of the population of Alice

SCORES: Pakistanis 273-6 (50 overs); Northern Territory Invitation XI 179 (45.6 overs).



Wasim: all-round high



Wasim: all-round high

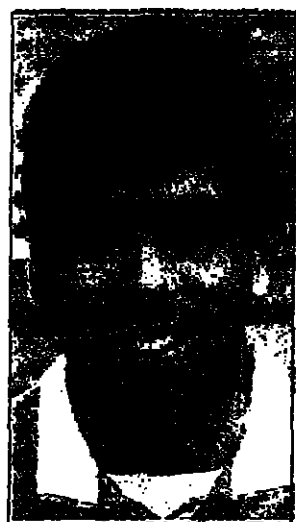
Reynolds vows to return

"worthless" the judgment in an American court, but the American insisted: "They can do what they want, but after

from the governing body for American athletics, which pledged to oppose any attempt to suspend him.

RESULTS: First round: A McManus (Scot) bt T. Griffiths (Wales), 9-7; J Wattana (Thai) bt D Morgan (Wales), 9-7. Quarter-finals: J. White (Eng) level with S Davis (Eng), 4-4. --

Forest's rejuvenation deepens Wilkinson's despair



Webb creator

Leeds United 1
Nottingham Forest 4

By DAVID MILLER

IT WAS almost too bad to be true. For Howard Wilkinson, there is no hiding from the evidence. Whether Leeds United's harrowing defeat by relegation-threatened Nottingham Forest tells us more about the defeated than the victors, only the coming winter months will reveal.

There was even cause for thinking the immediate future may be more comfortable for Brian Clough — assuming, that is, he still cares, in a period in which he has become something of a

recluse — than for Wilkinson. Forest looked like a young team that might yet have a future. Leeds like a team that has only a past.

Eliminated from two cup competitions and now fifth in the league, only seven points separate the league champions from Forest at the foot of the table. Leeds have lost seven of their past ten matches. Wilkinson, a dour, realistic man, offered no visible source of encouragement. "A most disturbing performance," he said. "Today is as far from what we have been doing as I can remember... we were so poor, it's hard to find any redeeming factors."

Beauty and cruelty run hand in hand on the football field so often. For Neil Webb, returning to Forest after injury, a ruined international career and permanent frustration at Old Trafford, there was the elation of creating three of the goals and prompting what could be the turning point of the season. For Wilkinson, there was the nagging spectre of possibly having sold the wrong man.

That is not meant to be hurtful. The charm of the game, even with the dismay of managers, is that public and press have their opinions. Watching Leeds crumble, it was impossible not to wonder whether Cantona might have done more for the team than the statuesque Chapman or

the buzzing but mostly irrelevant Rod Wallace. Wilkinson painstakingly explained Cantona's departure in the programme notes: wanted to go, faxed a transfer request, couldn't accept (selection) rules of the club, unstable, etc. The self-justifying view was amplified in a pre-match public-address announcement to a stony silent Yorkshire crowd: "In four years two months... I think I've done reasonably well" — polite applause — "but despite what many experts are saying, today is no formality."

How horrible correct. No manager, frankly, would put his shirt on the volatile, unpredictable Cantona in a crisis; and no

doubt Wilkinson was right. "Let him go, maybe," said my casual lunchtime companion, a fanatical Leeds supporter from Middlesbrough, "but it's going to Manchester United that hurts."

Where now does Wilkinson turn? Serious reservations about Leeds were surfacing long before half-time, never mind the misleading recent victory over troubled Arsenal and that Nigel Clough's opening goal on the half-hour, set up by Webb and Pearce, seemed clearly a yard

offside. There is still no replacement at right back for Sheridan, the central defence is dodgy, not to mention the goalkeeper, Strachan is over

the hill, Chapman's physical menace has waned, Speed is overrated. There is no cohesive line to relate to the skills of Dorigo and McAllister and, occasionally, Rocastle. A largely unchanged pattern over the season in ten positions suggests stability and consistency, but now these qualities were absent.

Suddenly, Forest were finding the conclusive finishing touch to the coherent football they have vainly played all season, the reward for faith in style by a lightweight side. The running off the ball from midfield by Keane and Gemmill progressively ripped Leeds apart — in the absence of Batty — and the accuracy of Webb exploited the opportu-

nities to the full against incompetent offside tactics.

The result was sealed in the first ten minutes of the second half. Keane squandered the first chance, from 16 yards, set up by Webb but swept home the second a few minutes later. Within 60 seconds, Gemmill had opened the way for Black to blast a third. When Webb made the fourth for Keane, you wondered how long the crowd's loyalty to the manager will last.

LEEDS UNITED: J. Lums, J. Newson, T. Dorigo, D. Rocastle (sub: S. Hodgki, C. Strachan, Roy Wallace (sub: C. Smith, G. Strachan, Rod Wallace, L. Chapman, G. McAllister, G. Speed).
NOTTINGHAM FOREST: M. Crossley, B. Lewis, S. Pearce, S. Chant, C. Tiller, R. Keane, N. Webb, S. Gemmill, N. Clough, S. Lowe (sub: G. Barnard), J. Wood (sub: K. Black).
Referee: A. Bullock.

Norwich steal clear with fortitude to match their fortune

Norwich City 2
Wimbledon 1

By KEITH PEEK

THEY are eight points clear of the field, after a gritty, but fortunate, victory at Carrow Road on Saturday, yet still there are those who refuse to take Norwich seriously. "The bubble will burst... their squad isn't deep enough... quality will tell in the end," are just some of the comments continuing to be heard.

They will probably be still saying it when Norwich make mathematically certain of the championship — around mid-February at the present rate. Norwich are making a habit of defying logic, and even Mike Walker, their modest manager, is beginning to relish the prospect of delivering a few generous portions of humble pie to the offices of his opposite numbers in the Premier League and the majority of so-called experts.

Atkinson supports Francis's forecast

Sheffield Wednesday 1
Aston Villa 2

By IAN ROSS

EVIDENCE to support a recent assertion by Trevor Francis, that Aston Villa would eventually exploit the inconsistency of their nearest rivals to become the first champions of the Premier League, was available in plenty at Hillsborough on Saturday.

If local legend is to be believed, Ron Atkinson's final message to the Wednesday directors after his resignation in controversial circumstances to move to Villa Park 17 months ago, was a recommendation that Francis should be promoted to fill the vacancy.

If so, it was shrewd advice. Francis, by pursuing a policy of continuity and by refusing to sanction the sale of his better players, has built a fine side, one which is capable of providing moments of genuine enterprise.

Atkinson, however, would appear to have constructed an even more impressive unit, for Aston Villa have an extra dimension to their game. Their desire to entertain never appears to detract from the main objective — of winning.

While Villa's success was ultimately well merited, anything other than a home victory seemed most improbable during the early exchanges, so fluid and

Walker rated the match against Wimbledon as Norwich's biggest challenge to date, more so even than seven days earlier, when they had won 3-2 away to end Aston Villa's 13-match unbeaten run. Villa, after all, let you play, and even the doubters recognise Norwich can do that handsomely.

Wimbledon, the renowned party-poppers, who can suffocate the life out of a team with flair, would present a bigger test of championship bottle. Norwich passed: fortunately maybe, controversially certainly, but that is hardly the point. Two goals in the last 12 minutes, the first courtesy of a lucky ricochet, the second thanks to a culpable linesman, earned a victory which seemed beyond them and which, frankly, they did not deserve.

Eventually even Walker had to admit that it took some believing. "Eight points clear... a pause, a smile, a mock pinch to assure himself he was not dreaming. "It is just

menacing were Wednesday's attacks. This season, the Yorkshire side has conceded many goals against the run of play. But few of these can have prompted such a dramatic change in a game's balance of power as did the one scored after 20 minutes by Dalian Atkinson, whose thunderous, rising drive from 18 yards was delivered with an enviable economy of effort.

Wednesday applied themselves diligently to the task of snatching a hold on a game which was unexpectedly threatening to slip away and equalised six minutes later, when Bright swept home Waddle's cross.

However, even without three of their leading players, Villa began to look increasingly dangerous and Atkinson decided the issue when, with a little over 20 minutes remaining, he drove the ball into the roof of the net with immense power after lulling Anderson, the Wednesday centre back, into a false sense of security.

Supporters of the Birmingham club awoke yesterday to discover that their team had been installed as the new favourites to win English football's most coveted prize.

Francis, for one, will not be too surprised at that.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY: C. Woods, R. Nelson, N. Worthington, C. Palmer, V. Anderson, P. Warhurst, J. Hargrave (sub: C. Bar, Williams), C. Waddell, D. Hirst, M. Bright, J. Sheehan (sub: G. Watson).
ASTON VILLA: M. Bostwick, E. Barnett, S. Staunton, M. Cox, P. McGrahan, R. Richardson, D. Yorke (sub: G. Roper), G. Porter, D. Saunders, D. Atkinson, S. Smith.
Referee: H. Hart.

at the moment." In an attempt to bring more physical presence to a team that has won only twice at home this season, Kendall is likely to recall Rideout to the attack. Wright is likely to return for the injured Burrows and Graeme Souness is hoping to name Barnes and Rush together in a starting line-up for the first time this season as Liverpool seek a fourth successive league win. Souness yesterday denied reports that he had offered Wright and Paul Stewart to Nottingham Forest in part-exchange for Roy Keane, their midfield player. A fine solo goal by Paul Gascoigne, the England midfielder, set Lazio on the way to a 3-2 victory over Pescara, the bottom team in the Italian league, yesterday.



Net gain: Phillips celebrates after converting a last-minute winner for Norwich at Carrow Road on Saturday

Newton's force propels Chelsea

Tottenham Hotspur 1
Chelsea 2

By PETER ROBINSON

CHELSEA are coming of age. A young team thrown together in the aftermath of an early-season pile-up of injuries is maturing into a unit that just might mount a challenge for the title.

This win was their fifth in succession at White Hart Lane in a sequence stretching back to 1987, their eighth in their past ten outings and it lifted them towards the head of the pack chasing the pace-setters, Norwich City at the top of the table. It was suitably impressive.

In the maelstrom of an over-charged, over-eager derby, Chelsea showed enough moments of quality — and there were not many — to, in

the end, comfortably wrap up another three points. Tottenham, exuberant if a little short of ideas and first-team regulars, were a distant second best.

In the absence of the suspended Mick Harford, the match-winner's mantle was picked up by the unlikely figure of Eddie Newton, a 20-year-old youth-team product whose main claim to fame is that he can play almost anywhere as well as his preferred midfield role. For an hour, he was fairly anonymous in a turbulent contest that was too physical for his slight frame.

Then, when Fleck limped off injured, he was pressed into action as a makeshift centre forward, and blossomed in the task. Revelling in the space he found in front of an unsuspecting back four, he coolly took both Chelsea's goals in a thrilling finish that

disguised much of the lesser fare that had been served up earlier.

While Newton was accorded the plaudits and the car-park press conference afterwards, the figure who had played at least an equal part in the victory strode past almost anonymously. David Lee was a tower of strength for Chelsea throughout, a massive, shadowing presence in defence who, despite his 6ft 4in frame, displayed a refreshing willingness to create as well as simply block. A first half of unrelenting energy and absent thought belonged to him.

After the break, Chelsea took control as the headless chickens ran out of puff. The loss of Fleck was all but ignored and, after a double substitution from Tottenham had awoken a dozing crowd, Newton struck. Stuart fed

Wise on the right and he in turn fired a low cross that Newton turned in at the far post. With five minutes left, Wise and Stuart swapped roles and Newton, this time from the edge of the area, made it two. Campbell's reply, on his debut, was too little too late.

Tottenham, sensibly, took defeat in their stride, knowing that their time will come, eventually. As their assistant coach, Ray Clemence, pointed out wryly later: "Chelsea's younger players are older than ours; they are about 20, ours are 18. It makes all the difference." It did on Saturday.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: E. Thorneycroft, D. Austin, J. Edithburgh, V. Samways, G. Matkovic, N. Ruddock, J. Curry, N. Barry (sub: S. Campbell), N. Jay, E. Sheehan, K. Wilson (sub: D. Anderson).
CHELSEA: K. Hitchcock, G. Hall, F. Sinclair, A. Townsend, D. Lee, M. Donaghy, G. Stuart, R. Fleck (sub: C. Surley), G. Le Saux, E. Newton, D. Wise.
Referee: H. Dilks.

Hendrie spoils Blackburn record

By PETER BALL

DOES anybody apart from Norwich want to become the first champions of the Premier League? While the East Anglian side continues to set a hot pace, its main challengers keep on stumbling. Blackburn and Arsenal both losing ground on Saturday.

As Blackburn's companions in the second division last season, Middlesbrough were unimpressed by the pretensions of Kenny Dalglish's high-flying team. Although Blackburn had their moments, and led through a goal from the promising Jason Wilcox, three goals from John Hendrie in 14 minutes early in the second half condemned them to their first away defeat of the season. Blackburn had conceded only five goals in eight previous away games.

The championship favourites, Arsenal, meanwhile, are rapidly losing their credibility. They went down 2-0 to a resurgent Southampton on Saturday at The Dell, where Matthew Le Tissier played the leading role in their third successive league defeat.

Arsenal even missed a penalty as Ian Wright's temperamental shortcomings again stood in the way of his skill, and he was lucky to avoid a red card. The club's disciplinary record is rapidly becoming a disgrace.

Queens Park Rangers at least ended their poor run. With 30 goals against them, Oldham were welcome visitors, and QPR took advantage to sneak home by the odd goal in five. There was no blame for Paul Gerrard on his debut as Oldham's goalkeeper, and Oldham perhaps deserved better after coming back to equalise from two down before their defence creaked again to let Ferdinand claim the winner with his second goal of the game.

Crystal Palace also ended the week on a high note by beating Sheffield United 2-0, although even their fans admitted they were lucky. Whisper it quietly, but Dave Bassett's side played most of the football on offer, and appeared to have taken an early lead when Deane's header looked to have crossed the line when it came down off the bar before being cleared. "Lucky we didn't have a Russian linesman," Steve Coppell said dryly.

Liverpool could worsen Everton's predicament

WITH weekend results placing even more pressure on them, Everton approach tonight's Merseyside derby game at Goodison Park knowing defeat would give them another hefty push on the road towards relegation (Ian Ross writes).

Howard Kendall insists that his squad is potentially as good as the one that he led to two Football League championships falling, debts amounting to £3 million and players showing an alarming lack of consistency. Kendall knows he has a fight on his hands. "I have quality within my squad and I am sure that we will come through in the end," he said. "I do not believe there to be too much difference between the top and the bottom of the Premier League

at the moment." In an attempt to bring more physical presence to a team that has won only twice at home this season, Kendall is likely to recall Rideout to the attack.

Wright is likely to return for the injured Burrows and Graeme Souness is hoping to name Barnes and Rush together in a starting line-up for the first time this season as Liverpool seek a fourth successive league win. Souness yesterday denied reports that he had offered Wright and Paul Stewart to Nottingham Forest in part-exchange for Roy Keane, their midfield player. A fine solo goal by Paul Gascoigne, the England midfielder, set Lazio on the way to a 3-2 victory over Pescara, the bottom team in the Italian league, yesterday.

THE TIMES TABLE OF THE FA PREMIER LEAGUE

Wldy ch'ge	P	Pts	Goal diff	W (H-A)	D (H-A)	L (H-A)	For (H-A)	Agst (H-A)	Leading scorers	Offences S-O	Home attendance Avg 92-3	% chg 91-2	Recent form	Next match
1 (0) Norwich	18	39	+3	12 (7-5)	3 (2-1)	3 (0-3)	34 (15-19)	21 (7-24)	Robins 11, Phillips 7	- 12	14,308	+3.3	ldwwww	Man Utd (a Sat)
2 (0) Blackburn	18	31	+13	8 (6-2)	7 (1-6)	3 (2-1)	28 (18-10)	15 (7-8)	Shearer 13, Ripley 3	2 18	17,755	+34.0	ldldww	Liverpool (h Sat)
3 (+1) A Villa	18	31	+9	8 (4-4)	7 (3-4)	3 (2-1)	28 (15-13)	19 (10-9)	Atkinson 11, Saunders 7	- 10	26,621	+7.3	ldwldw	Notm For (h Sat)
4 (+1) Chelsea	18	31	+6	9 (4-4)	4 (3-1)	5 (2-3)	26 (11-15)	20 (8-12)	Harford 8	- 22	19,639	+5.1	wwwwww	Middlesbrough (a Sat)
5 (+1) Man Utd	18	30	+7	8 (4-4)	6 (3-3)	4 (2-2)	20 (11-9)	13 (8-5)	Hughes 8	- 15	32,608	-27.5	ldwww	Norwich (h Sat)
6 (+1) QPR	18	29	+6	8 (5-3)	5 (3-2)	5 (1-4)	25 (18-7)	19 (11-8)	Ferdinand 7, Penrice 4	- 18	15,505	+14.1	wwldw	C Palace (h Sat)
7 (-4) Arsenal	18	29	+3	9 (6-3)	2 (0-2)	7 (3-4)	22 (14-8)	19 (8-11)	Wright 10, Merson 3	- 23	25,736	-19.3	wwwll	Tottenham (a Sat)
8 (+2) Ipswich	18	26	+3	5 (3-2)	11 (6-5)	2 (0-2)	24 (13-11)	21 (9-12)	Three players on 5	1 17	17,673	+23.8	ldwldw	Man City (h Sat)
9 (0) Liverpool	17	25	+6	7 (6-1)	4 (1-3)	6 (2-4)	30 (21-9)	24 (10-14)	Rice/Stratton/McManaman 5	- 16	33,925	-2.5	wdwww	Everton (a today)
9 (-1) Man City	18	25	+6	7 (3-4)	4 (3-1)	7 (3-4)	25 (14-11)	19 (10-9)	White 8, Shearer 5	1 15	24,668	-10.9	wwwll	Ipswich (a Sat)
11 (0) Coventry	18	25	-1	6 (3-4)	7 (3-4)	5 (1-1)	23 (11-12)	24 (14-10)	Three players on 4	- 9	13,987	+0.8	ldldld	Soton (a Sat)
12 (+2) Middlesbrough	18	24	+1	6 (5-1)	6 (3-3)	6 (1-4)	30 (18-11)	29 (10-19)	Wilkinson 8, Hendrie 5	- 16	17,951	+22.1	ldldw	Chelsea (h Sat)
13 (+3) Southampton	18	22	-2	5 (3-2)	7 (4-3)	6 (2-4)	17 (10-7)	19 (8-11)	Le Tissier 5, Dowle 4	1 26	14,955	+6.3	ldwldw	Coventry (a Sat)
14 (-2) Tottenham	18	22	-6	5 (3-2)	7 (4-3)	6 (2-4)	18 (12-6)	24 (10-14)	Sheeringham 5, Durie 3	1 16	28,200	+1.6	ldwldw	Arsenal (h Sat)
15 (-2) Leeds	18	21	-3	5 (5-0)	6 (3-3)	7 (1-6)	29 (21-8)	32 (11-21)	Chapman 9, Cantona 6	- 16	28,515	-3.0	ldwll	Sheff Wed (h Sat)
16 (-1) Sheff Wed	18	20	-2	4 (3-1)	8 (3-5)	6 (3-3)	20 (12-8)	22 (12-10)	Hirst 6, Bright 5	- 16	26,740	-9.5	ldldld	Leeds (a Sat)
17 (0) Oldham	18	18	-4	4 (4-0)	6 (3-3)	8 (2-6)	29 (20-9)	33 (14-19)	Sharp 8, Olney 5	- 16	12,093	-19.8	ldwll	Wimbledon (h Sat)
18 (0) Sheff Utd	18	18	-8	4 (3-1)	6 (5-1)	8 (1-7)	25 (17-8)	25 (8-17)	Deane 5, Littlejohn 4	2 26	20,733	-6.2	ldwld	Everton (h Sat)
19 (0) Everton	17	16	-8	4 (1-3)	4 (3-1)	9 (4-5)	13 (4-8)	21 (10-11)	Beardley 3	- 8	21,436	-7.4	ldwll	Liverpool (h today)
20 (0) Wimbledon	18	15	-8	3 (1-2)	6 (3-3)	9 (5-4)	20 (9-11)	28 (14-14)	Three players on 3	1 22	6,715	-2.8	ldwll	Oldham (h Sat)
21 (0) C Palace	18	15	-10	2 (1-1)	9 (5-4)	7 (3-4)	22 (12-10)	32 (13-19)	Armstrong 7	2 16	14,462	-17.9	ldldw	QPR (a Sat)
22 (0) Notm For	18	14	-11	3 (2-1)	5 (1-4)	10 (6-4)	17 (6-12)	28 (10-18)	Barnister 5, Clough 4	- 9	20,190	-14.9	ldldw	A Villa (a Sat)

TRANSFERS: None. LOANS: Ken Veysey (Oxford) to Sheffield Utd; Lee Power (Norwich) to Charlton.

* Statistics refer to Premier League matches only.



CONCERTS page 28
At the Festival Hall
violinist Viktoria Mullova
and the LPO played
scintillating Bartók

ARTS

ROCK page 29

Christine McVie: her
polished tunes are
central to the appeal of
Fleetwood Mac



An Oscar winner in *Misery*: "the tale of a maniacal fan confronting the writer she worships is still associated with Kathy Bates's star-making screen portrayal"

Lights, camera, action, curtain

For years, films have fed on the theatre, finding Oscars in such malleable stage fare as *West Side Story*, *A Man For All Seasons*, *Amadeus* and *Driving Miss Daisy*. Increasingly, however, inspiration seems to be flowing the other way. The musical theatre, desperate for product, has seized upon hit films. The long-awaited *Sunset Boulevard*, Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical of Billy Wilder's classic 1950 film, has announced a June opening on the West End. Broadway is anticipating both Thursday's debut of *My Favourite Year*, a musical based on the 1982 Peter O'Toole film, and the March opening of *The Goodbye Girl*. Neil Simon and Marvin Hamlisch's stage musical version of Simon's 1977 movie.

In their own category are productions based not on films, but on novels that inspired hit films: *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, already ensconced at the Shaftesbury Theatre, or the forthcoming *Misery*. In a sense, though, the distinction is academic. While these shows' creators may swear fidelity to their source novels, and not to the films they engendered, those films remain the spectre hovering over the project which producers and audiences alike must contend with.

Chances are that more theatregoers nightly at *Spider Woman* remember William Hurt's droll 1985 film performance as Molina

As another stage version of a successful film opens in London, Matt Wolf looks at two-way traffic between theatre and cinema

than have ever laid eyes on Manuel Puig's 1976 novel. Similarly, *Misery* may have been a best-seller of typically epic Stephen King proportions, but the tale of a maniacal fan confronting the writer she worships is still closely associated with Kathy Bates's star-making screen portrayal two years ago. The fact that Hurt and Bates both won leading actor Oscars in their respective years makes it doubly daunting for any stage performer following on afterwards. The novel may be the launching-pad, but it's the film that casts the long, enveloping shadow.

Sharon Gless, the actress inheriting Bates's role as the murderously obsessive Annie Wilkes, acknowledges the irony in a television-trained performer stepping into a part played on screen by a thoroughbred New York theatre actress. "I'm not Kathy, and I couldn't pretend to be," says Gless, 49, whose only stage experience was a Massachusetts engagement in *Watch On the Rhine*. "Our version takes the movie that much further; it's not a retread."

Simon Moore, the play's 34-year-old writer/director, expands this point: "For me, precisely what I

didn't want to do is: 'Here's the stage version of the film.' There's massive uncharted territory which the film decided not to go into." In the movie, James Caan's Paul Sheldon "is a conventional action hero who's suddenly disabled," says Moore, whereas Bill Paterson in the play emphasises King's depiction of "a very vain novelist who thinks he's marvellous, and in

'The novel may be the launching-pad, but the film casts the long, enveloping shadow'

a perverse way, Annie gives him a better critique than all the reviewers who will ever read him."

"It's much more an even two-hander, if you like," continues Moore. "It's about somebody's fall from grace." And Stephen King adds: "I've always thought if *Misery* was anything, it was a play — a two-act, one-set money-maker."

But why bother to go back to the book when the film exists as a

powerful intermediary? *Nine*, director-choreographer Tommy Tune's 1982 musical adaptation of Federico Fellini's groundbreaking 8½, rounded up the original title's fraction even as it created a show that had absolutely its own identity; much the same could be said of Tune's more recent *Grand Hotel*.

Other projects haven't been so lucky. *Singin' in the Rain*, a no less beloved MGM film, became a tacky West End vehicle for Tommy Steele, and a stage musical of the 1981 Dudley Moore/John Gielgud hit *Arthur* has floundered in initial American productions. The notorious debacle of *Carrie*, the only other Stephen King stage adaptation to date, has passed into theatre legend.

Even *Spider Woman*, its various accolades notwithstanding, suffers in comparison. Whereas both the novel and Hector Babenco's film had an immediately apparent *raison d'être*, the musical schizophrenically marries a Vegas-style revue to a chorus line of celimates. Librettist Terrence McNally may claim the musical is "so unlike the movie you never think of it," but the title ensures the contrary.

Nevertheless, a well-known title can be useful, since it offers a built-in marketing lure few other shows can draw on. How many who saw *Aspects of Love*, Lloyd Webber's last musical, even knew of the 1955 source novel by David Garnett, a minor Bloomsbury writer?

With *Sunset Boulevard*, Lloyd Webber's success — at least commercially — is as sure a bet as the theatre has. Added to that audience curiosity about the next British blockbuster, whatever it may be, will be a public eager to see how Billy Wilder's hard, brilliant movie meshes with Lloyd Webber's traditionally lush theatrics. The questions remaining are aesthetic, not financial: how do you adapt for the stage — a medium not obviously suited for close-ups — a film whose most celebrated line begins, "I'm ready for my close-up?"

As for *Misery*, co-producer Andrew Welch makes clear the association with the film is more boon than bane: "In a recession, of course, it may be that people go to see things they know and like." And if the movie gives audiences a prod, so much the better. The task, says Welch, is to "enhance the experience [of the film]. What we're going to have on stage is something that will be very different — Simon Moore's vision of the book as a play."

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DANCE

Simply not good enough on stage

John Percival thinks the Royal Ballet's decision to present a stage version of a favourite children's film reflects badly on everybody but the dancers

When the proposal of making a ballet out of Beatrix Potter's children's books was put to Frederick Ashton, he declined on the grounds that people would say "the old boy has gone gaga". A dance film, he agreed, was quite another matter and he was right: in the cinema, on television and on video *Tales of Beatrix Potter* has given delight to children for 21 years.

Now along comes Anthony Dowell and decides to transfer it to the stage; and reluctantly one is compelled to wonder whether it is he who has lost some of his marbles. Ashton, a real pro, knew that screen choreography needed different, simpler patterns than the stage, making up its interest through changing camera angles, close-ups, long shots and trick effects. Without these, much of *Beatrix Potter* is boring. There are one or two attractive dances tucked away in it, most notably the pretty duet for two porters, Pig-wig and Piglet Bland, and a bouncy solo for a frog, Jeremy Fisher. But most of it, restricted by Christine Edzard's elaborate costumes, is just skipping about, and the structure is only a set of inconsequential episodes.

Also, with all the dancers hidden under Rostislav Doboujinsky's clever masks, the characters have no real life: their animal heads, completely dead and expressionless, recall a taxidermist's window rather than a farmyard. Edzard's stage designs are a skilled imitation of Potter's watercolours but fatally insipid. John Lanchbery's rum-

ture score, concocted from tunes by Minkus, Balfe, Offenbach, Sullivan and others, soon begins to cloy.

This kind of accompaniment, this complete rejection of any point or subject, these naïve, jolly little dances, might well have been acceptable a hundred years ago in the ballet episodes at the old Leicester Square music-halls. But from what is supposed to be a major ballet company in the last decade of the 20th century, they must seem pathetic.

Among the dancers, Iain Webb has the hardest job, replacing Ashton as Mrs Tiggly-winkle the hedgehog, and he acquires himself best, thanks to a sense of style and a gentle manner. Belinda Hatley's pig and William Trevitt's frog were the best of the rest.

There was much chortling and chucking at Friday's premiere, and I guess that the production may appeal to people who neither know nor care anything about ballet. But it is not something worth paying Covent Garden prices for: buy the video instead and see a better version of the ballet, danced by its outstanding original cast.

Those who sit through it will, however, have the consolation of seeing one of Ashton's real ballets *The Dream*, given as the first part of the evening. This has worthwhile music (Mendelssohn, also arranged by Lanchbery, who conducts it in lively manner), a story by Shakespeare and all expressed in imaginative dances. Unfortunately it suffers from ill-conceived programme building, like serving a meal of two sweet courses.



"Naïve, jolly little dances": a scene from the Royal Ballet's production of Sir Frederick Ashton's *Tales of Beatrix Potter*

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Will more of Scotland's 'family silver' be sold?



EDINBURGH University is under fire for attempting to sell three of its finest art treasures: a landscape by Jacob van Ruysdael, and sculptures by Adrian de Vries and Giambologna. If the university succeeds in its aim, the £2 million that it raised earlier this year for the controversial sale of its volumes of bird illustrations by Audubon and Gould will be greatly exceeded. Estimates for the painting and the two sculptures range from £2 million to £5 million each.

Unfortunately for the university, its right to sell these treasures is disputed. When James Erskine of Torrie bequeathed them in 1824, as part of a larger collection, he stipulated that his gift was "for the purpose of laying a foundation for a gallery for the encouragement of fine arts". The fight is now on to keep the treasures in Scotland, although the National Galleries of Scotland, with an annual purchase grant of £1.67 million, has not a hope of acquiring the great Ruysdael landscape which is still one of its prize exhibits.

ONE of the great ballet partnerships of the post-war years will get what will almost certainly be a

final airing next year. Christopher Gable and Lynn Seymour, for so long principal stars of the Royal Ballet, will come together to dance in Gillian Lynne's *Simple Man* at Leeds next February.

The ballet is based on the life of L.S. Lowry and has been one of Gable's most prominent successes since he became administrator of Northern Ballet Theatre. The central roles of Lowry and his mother were famously created by Gable and Moira Shearer. Now Gable and Seymour will dance them. The last time they danced together was in the late Sir Kenneth Macmillan's *Romeo and Juliet* at Covent Garden.

Last chance...

AT ITS not-very-deep bottom, *June Moon* is another all-American fairy story. It is about an innocent rhymester who comes from the sticks to seek his fortune in New York and, after most of the usual vicissitudes, strikes it rich both professionally and romantically. But what distinguishes Ring Lardner and George Kaufman's comedy from the ordinary Broadway nonsense of the late 1920s and early 1930s is its gently satirical portrait of Tin Pan Alley: shyster agents, dumb lyrics, silly tinkles and all. The final performance of a regrettably all-too-short run will be at the Vaudeville (071-836 9987) on Saturday.

English
National
Opera

Princess Ida

Gilbert and Sullivan
New Production

December 10 | 12 | 15 | 18 | 30
January 2 (2.30pm & 7.30pm) | 6 | 7 | 9
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ROCK: Fleetwood Mac reveal (nearly) everything; plus reviews of Saturday's Wembley extravaganza and Gary Glitter in Brixton

Don't stop thinking of yesterday

Even their "dinosaur rock" label is old hat.
Caroline Sullivan profiles Fleetwood Mac:
 25 years old, and endorsed by Bill Clinton

Most rock bands regard hotel windows as exit routes for furniture. Fleetwood Mac reversed the process. They had grand pianos craned into their suites. This, naturally, was after the suites had been repainted to their specifications. The five musicians travelled to concerts in separate limousines; there, hairdresser, wardrobe mistress and make-up artist stood by to prod them into presentability.

All of this, which occurred during the 1980 Tusk tour, is recounted in a new book by drummer Mick Fleetwood: *My 25 Years in Fleetwood Mac* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £17.99). Its publication last week coincided with the release of a four-CD anthology, *25 Years - The Chain* (Reprise). At £53.99, the set is not a bargain, but a two-CD condensed version, *Selections from 25 Years - The Chain* is out today.

This lavishness is typical of Fleetwood Mac. When it comes to excess, they not only wrote the book but bound it in hand-tooled sequins. Their 1977 album, *Rumours* (whose 25 million sales make it the biggest-selling rock album after Michael Jackson's *Thriller*), spawned a legendary era of high living that continued into the Eighties. *Tusk*, the follow-up to *Rumours*, cost \$1 million to record - a vast sum in 1979.

"We'd fly in from Nova Scotia," says the keyboardist/songwriter Christine McVie. "It was outrageous, but it was really fun at the time."

The Mac lifestyle was indivisible from the music. Their burnished soft rock could only have been created by people who had pianos winched into hotel rooms. The style became known as Adult Rock, or, as the punks of the day insisted, Dinosaur Rock. Mac's success inspired a host of similarly tasteful bands. It is possible to forgive Fleetwood Mac their pianos. But can we forgive them Dire Straits?

A 1990 hit by The Reynolds Girls summarised Fleetwood's unhappiness: "I'd rather jack [dance] than Fleetwood Mac." Fleetwood Mac have

heard the song, and pronounce themselves bemused. "I thought 'jack' meant something rude," says Mick Fleetwood, still wryly English after 19 years' residence in California. "It's never hip to like anyone's schlock, and suddenly we were the biggest schlock ever. Sing once, criticised us, but look at him now."

Fleetwood and McVie have not been obliged to meet the press since the release of their last studio album, 1990's *Behind the Mask*. Now they are easing back into public view, gearing up for an anticipated appearance at Bill Clinton's inaugural ball. "Probably," Fleetwood hedges. "We've been approached, and told them we'd like to play."

Perhaps the president-elect thought it was the least he could do after appropriating the band's old hit "Don't Stop (Thinking About Tomorrow)" as his campaign theme song. If it happens, Fleetwood Mac will be the first rock group to grace an inaugural gala. Depending on how you look at it, their presence there will emphasise Clinton's youth or the group's own middle-agedness.

Soon after that, the group (currently composed of Fleetwood, McVie, bassist John McVie, guitarist Billy Burnette and vocalist/writer Stevie Nicks) will start a new album. Mac albums are notoriously long in the making. Two years in the studio is nothing for an outfit that once spent four days just tuning a piano. When it eventually appears, it will certainly be the usual classy affair, with Christine's polished tunes offset by Nicks's mystical meanderings.

Fleetwood Mac's internal affairs have always been lurid and labyrinthine. *My 25 Years in Fleetwood Mac* presents a somewhat sanitised version of a history that has encompassed drugs, alcoholism, apparent insanity and cult religions (for starters). The book ends in 1990. Much has happened since.



Christine McVie and Mick Fleetwood: "It was outrageous, but it was really fun at the time"

"I've sobered up and become drug-free," declares Fleetwood, who looks pretty good for someone who admits to 15 years of substance misuse. "It was long overdue. Drugs became a bloody nightmare. I'd be in bed for three or four days at the time. I was good at disguising it, but I was a functioning wreck." "You'd be the colour of this wall," McVie tells him, gesturing at the white paint, "and we'd be terrified you'd pass out on your drums on stage."

"I only couldn't do an encore once - at Wembley," Fleetwood replies, mildly miffed. "But I was desperate. I went to Hawaii and drank a bottle of

brandy a day for ten days. Then I played tennis with my daughter and passed out. I thought I'd had a stroke. Two days later, by the grace of God, I stopped everything overnight."

He speaks with moving eloquence. Drugs have evicted his band. Three members, Peter Green, Jeremy Spencer and Danny Kirwan, broke down under their effects. Green, considered a great guitar talent, slept rough for a time, as did Kirwan. Fleetwood says that Green is now "seemingly better". He has not seen Kirwan recently. Of Spencer, who quit hours before a concert to join the Children of God cult, he reveals:

"He's great. He lives in Rio and has eight kids and three grandchildren."

Nowadays, Fleetwood and chums are more selective about their indulgences. They are hideously wealthy. *Rumours* still generates royalty cheques that Fleetwood describes as "a kind of pension". Instead of spending the money on cocaine and fox, they admit to a penchant for houses and first-class air travel.

The future? "I don't like Los Angeles. I hate having to sleep with an earthquake kit by the bed," says Christine. "Eventually I'd like to move back here and start a sideline designing teapots."

Little doubt who won this

Although Jerry Lee Lewis was top of the bill, the *Giants of Rock 'n' Roll* concert at Wembley Arena on Saturday belonged to Little Richard, whose 60th birthday was marked by presentation of a piano-shaped cake. In a purple jacket, with a Charles II hairstyle and glitter-dust across his heavily made-up face, he tore into "Lucille", "Bony Moronie", "Keep A-Knockin'", "Send Me Some Lovin'", "Rock and Roll Music", "Good Golly Miss Molly" and "Tutti Frutti": the spirit of rock, a holy fool, a true original. His magnificent seven-piece band never faltered. He invited dancers on stage to augment his own two and climbed on and off the piano. Astonishingly limber (and vain beyond parody - "I'm still beautiful. I ain't conceited, I'm convinced!"), he is an impossible act to follow.

When Jerry Lee took the stage, chunky but frail, his playful, solid versions of side of rock's parentage with a tantalising taste of what must be a superb full-length revue. Duane Eddy, king of twang, with a nine-strong band, was more country-crossover. Apart from a misguided "3.30 Blues", his set hit all the right buttons, especially "Peter Gunn" and "Rebel Rouser".

coherent: we left with a proper sense that we had witnessed history. When will a bill including Lewis and Richard, let alone Duane Eddy, Bobby Vee, Lloyd Price, Little Eva, Chris Montez and Johnny Preston again be possible?

Chris Montez seemed no closer to singing in tune than he was in 1962 on "Let's Dance". Johnny Preston opened his ten minutes with a driving rocker, "Feels So Fine", saving "Running Bear" for a big finish.

As for Little Eva, my, how she has grown. When she put her weight behind the line "You've got to swing your hips now", in "The Locomotion", everybody said amen. Bobby Vee, whose four-piece had been backing the rest, brought on an extra guitarist for his smooth set. His clear voice is still true and the drippy pop hits as appealing as ever.

Lloyd Price, with his six-piece all-black band, harked back to the rhythm 'n' blues side of rock's parentage with a tantalising taste of what must be a superb full-length revue. Duane Eddy, king of twang, with a nine-strong band, was more country-crossover. Apart from a misguided "3.30 Blues", his set hit all the right buttons, especially "Peter Gunn" and "Rebel Rouser".

TONY PATRICK

Gang loyalties

One of the strangest events in pop takes place every December. Gary Glitter emerges from retirement, levers on a lame jumpsuit and goes to the nation. His "Christmas Gangshow" should not be missed by anyone with a taste for the bizarre.

The relationship between "The Leader" and his "People" is a remarkable one. Most of the twentysomething crowd at the Brixton Academy did not seem insane. Yet they responded with a fervour that only a therapist could explain. They waved huge foam-rubber fists and screamed "Les-Der!" One man wore an arrangement of blinking cathode tubes that might have interested John Logie Baird.

The Leader entered to a disfigured Wagnerian march. Seemingly and feathered, he made an oddly heroic figure. You really had to admire him. First off were a couple of tunes familiar to anyone who owned a radio in the Seventies. Glitter barked out "I Didn't Know I Loved You" and "Do You Wanna Touch" with the bellicose hysteria of yore. His pelvic thrusts ensured that sex was perhaps the

last thing on anyone's mind. The next half hour was inexplicably filled with unfamiliar, presumably new, material. Not that this made a difference, of course. All of it contained the usual, primitive, two-drummer rhythm patterns. The songs might as well have been the old hits with different words.

Just as his subjects were reading themselves for the long night, The Leader disappeared backstage. The ensuing 45-minute break was filled with Gaz home movies and reminders that his new single was on sale in the foyer. The man is shameless.

Glitter was eventually returned to the stage on a motorcycle. Dismounting gingerly, he then stomped into his signature tune, "Do You Wanna Be In My Gang?" You would have assumed from the frenzied reaction that it was Jason Donovan up there. Gary wears spazzier suits, though.

The Gangshow touches down at Wembley Arena later this month. Attendance there should be compulsory for behavioural analysts and bands such as R.E.M.

CAROLINE SULLIVAN

THEATRE: In London, a comic nightmare faultlessly acted; in Manchester, a flawed staging of a classic children's story

Life's a funny old game

The puzzled colleague who, before Neville Southall's Washbag had started, maintained that Neville Southall was a real-life footballer was proved right. Not that David Farr's play at the Finborough is a factual look at the sport, more a symbolist allegory in which the Everton goalkeeper has come to dominate the leading character's imagination. It is as if an *Evening With Gary Lineker* had been re-written by a quarrelsome combination of Harold Pinter, Samuel Beckett and N.F. Simpson.

As a director, Farr was responsible for Botho Strauss's *Seven Doors* at the Gate last summer, a fascinating and funny version of an author who can be intractable for British audiences. The same mixture of comedy and near-metaphysical portentousness can be found in this play which the author also directs. Despite inconsistencies, Farr the writer shows an eye for the humour of surreal incongruity; and Farr the director reinforces his reputation for handling actors, since the seven-strong cast is faultless.

The set by Roswitha Gerlitz shows a bare room, wallpaper stripped or hanging in shreds, a window boarded up. The



Get surreal: Pete Lee Wilson and Stephanie Buttle

only furniture is a chair and a television set. "I've become very reductive in my philosophy," says Bill who lives there (Pete Lee Wilson).

His brother Jim arrives, the manager of a band (Will Keen). This might be the home life of the brothers in *The Caretaker* as they gingerly pace out the private limbo constructed as a defence against the outside world.

Further visitors include the two members of the band, one

of whom, a shy child (Timothy Stark), holds the secret of their future success in a variety of theatres around the country. Book now through the Theatre Club on 071-413 1412 (open 24 hours a day), or telephone the theatre. The Club offers only apply to the performances stated.

LONDON *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*, by C.S. Lewis, adapted by Glynn Robbins. Royal Theatre (22 Dec-16 Jan). Tickets are half price. Tel 071-413 1412.

Fireman Sam - Ready for Action. Lyric Hammersmith (23, 24, 28 Dec, 11am). Free child with an adult. Tel 081-741 2311.

The Witches by Roald Dahl. Duke of York's Theatre (4-23

Jan). It is weird but it works, as the characters pursue their fantasies: a schoolgirl waif obsessed with football (Stephanie Buttle) and the rebellious bass player, played with restrained comic power by Will Barton. Above all, a mysterious girl calls sporadically to collect for the aged. She not only strips houses of furniture, but loads the walls and ceilings into her truck, and finally the football pitch on which the youngsters have been playing. Rachel Weiss plays this cross between Lady Bountiful and the SAS with a gently inexorable appeal and the unstoppable logic of insanity.

The sinister object of her search is Bill's vanished girlfriend (Nicola Walker), who we meet in flashbacks to their troubled relationship. The final revelation unboards the window - the pub theatre's real window giving onto SW10 - and, as the group breaks up and things fall into place, what should be a corny resolution is oddly moving.

The play says towards the end of the first half: but it creates its own comic nightmare world. Make what you will of the symbols, but come on in: the acting's fine.

MARTIN HOYLE

Suburban magic proves elusive

Floods in the South, landslips in the Midlands, but nothing deters a man whose motto is: "The critic gets through!" Even so, as the hours spent reaching Elidor started catching up with the number of miles covered, I wished that real travel was as easy as in Alan Garner's novel, adapted and directed by Bryan Elsley for the Christmas show at Manchester's Contact Theatre.

In Garner's Manchester, the Watson children have only to leave a fiddler playing in Thursday Street and within its ruined church lies the route to the ruined Land of Elidor, the Mound of Vandry, the Castle of Gorias. Boughs of apple blossom will hold them enchanted, shadows creep dangerously close and there are treasures that glow in the dark.

Most of the story takes place in a humdrum suburb, where the children guard the bowl, jewel, sword and spear entrusted to them by Elidor's embattled king. In our world, these treasures appear as a railing, a cracked cup and other everyday scraps, yet they draw in from the other world creatures of darkness, and the book's

excitement is generated by the magical danger gathering in a prosaic environment.

Something of the book's scary power comes across in Elsley's version when the brick walls of Roland's bedroom bulge inwards under the assaults of something nasty outside. But he lops away so much that gives the story vigour that anyone who has enjoyed the book will be grievously disappointed, while those to whom it is unknown must surely find the moments of excitement separated by long, dull bits.

Elsley also devotes too much time to the parents, making them dreamily comic. The slide projections on to the empty window of the church are effective, and Mark Niven's Roland, though beefy for a ten-year-old, conveys a determination not to be overawed by older siblings that should endear him to young children. But when Findhorn the unicorn finally sings, and saves all, surely something better can be done than asking a dancer with a glass horn to write to taped music.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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The Theatre Club has arranged discounts at a variety of theatres around the country. Book now through the Theatre Club on 071-413 1412 (open 24 hours a day), or telephone the theatre. The Club offers only apply to the performances stated.

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Fireman Sam - Ready for Action. Lyric Hammersmith (23, 24, 28 Dec, 11am). Free child with an adult. Tel 081-741 2311.

The Witches by Roald Dahl. Duke of York's Theatre (4-23

THE THEATRE CLUB

Jan). Take in the show and a meal at Smollensky's Restaurant in The Strand. Tickets for the show/meal are £28.50 for adults and £17 for children under 16. Tel 071-413 1412.

BILLINGHAM: *Dick Whittington*, Forum Theatre (12, 13 Jan). Two tickets for the price of one. Tel 0642 552663.

BRISTOL: *Aladdin*, Old Vic (until 30 Jan, excluding 21-28 Dec). £3 off adult tickets. Tel 0272 250250.

INVERNESS: *Aladdin*, Eden Court (until 9 Jan). Free child with two accompanying adults. Tel 0463 221718.

OXFORD: *Footling About* (or more fool you!), Playhouse (until 21 Dec). £2 off. Tel 0865 798600.

SALISBURY: *Mother Goose*, Playhouse (12, 14 Dec, 7.15pm). £2 off £6.60 seats. Tel 0722 320333.

SCARBOROUGH: *Prince On A White Bike*, Theatre in the Round (8-12, 15-19, 21-23, 29 Dec-2 Jan). All seats £5. Tel 0723 370541.

STIRLING: *Sleeping Beauty*, MacRobert Arts Centre, (22,

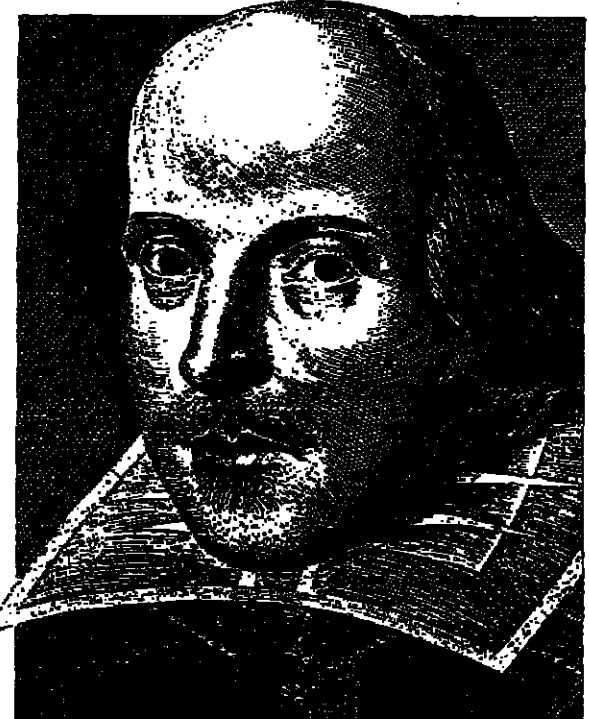
24, 31 Dec, 2.30pm, 2, 8 Jan, 7.30pm). Adults at child prices, mat £5, evenings £5.50. Tel 0786 61081.

YORK: *Babes in The Wood*, Theatre Royal (14, 15, 16 Dec, 7.30pm). Adults at child prices. Tel 0904 623568.

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To join The Theatre Club send a cheque for £12.50, with your name, address and tel no: The Theatre Club, PO Box 3, Owen Road, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 3HH. For more information tel 071-387 9673.

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POSTS



GIGGLESWICK SCHOOL

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD

The Governors of Giggleswick School invite applications for the position of Head which falls vacant in September 1993 when the present Head, Mr. Peter Hobson, takes up his appointment as Headmaster of Charterhouse. The closing date for applications is Thursday 14th January 1993.

For further details, please contact The Clerk to the Governors, Giggleswick School, Settle, North Yorkshire, BD24 0DE.

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It is expected that initial interviews will be carried out in London as soon as it is practicable and interested candidates should therefore send their CVs and other relevant information to Box No. 9040 below quoting reference K9/0110 no later than 24 December 1992. Please Reply to Box No. 9040, Box No. Dept. Times Newspapers Ltd., 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9SL.

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Applications are invited for the position as Head of Devonshire House Junior School, Hampstead, London NW3. The Junior School is part of Devonshire House Preparatory School, Hampstead which is a co-educational day preparatory school for children from three to thirteen years of age. The Junior School is for children from three to seven years of age, and the Headship of this section of the School will be a new appointment.

Candidates should have the appropriate qualifications and extensive relevant experience. They should demonstrate a commitment to cherish and care for the children for whom they will be responsible. Candidates must also show a dedication to academic excellence and the will to help each child reach his or her full potential.

Applications should be made in writing with a curriculum vitae to the Principal's Secretary, 2 Arkwright Road, Hampstead, London NW3 6AD.



Felsted School

HEAD

The Governors of Felsted School invite applications for the post of Head which will become vacant in September 1993 on the appointment of Mr. E. J. H. Gould as Master of Marlborough College.

The School has 560 pupils and consists of a Senior School with its own Preparatory School which includes a Pre-Preparatory Department. The School admits boarding and day pupils and the Senior School is predominantly boarding. Since 1970 Felsted has accepted girls into the Sixth Form and the School is now moving towards full co-education. The present Headmaster is a member of HMC.

Applications, together with a full curriculum vitae and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of three referees, should be sent to: THE CLERK TO THE GOVERNORS, c/o THE BURSAR'S OFFICE, FELSTED SCHOOL, DUNMOW, ESSEX, CM6 3JG from whom further details may be obtained. The closing date is January 16th 1993. Envelopes should be marked Private and Confidential.



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The successful applicant will be accorded the title of Professor.

The salary for the post will reflect its seniority within the University and the attributes and experience of the appointee.

Further details, including application forms, are available from the Personnel Officer, DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY, Dublin 9. Closing date: 15th January, 1993. Telephone: 7045149. Facsimile: 7045500.



HAMPTON SCHOOL

HMC, 910 boys

Bursar and Clerk to the Governors

The Governors invite applications for the post of Bursar and Clerk to the Governors, which will become vacant through retirement on August 31st, 1993.

Full details of the post and method of application may be obtained from the Headmaster's Office at Hampton School, Hanworth Road, Hampton, Middlesex TW12.

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FURTHER DETAILS of these events, as well as Foundation Bursaries, may be obtained from the Headmaster on 0932 863076.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

SURVEYOR TO THE UNIVERSITY

Applications are invited for appointment to the office of Surveyor to the University which will fall vacant on 1 October 1993. Under the Registrar (Administration) the Surveyor is responsible for the management of the Buildings Division of the central administrative services. The Surveyor is secretary and chief executive of the Buildings Committee, which is responsible for formulating and reviewing the University's programme of building works, for the repair and maintenance of all university buildings in functional use, and for allocating space within such buildings. An ideal candidate of the committee the Surveyor is responsible for ensuring that these responsibilities are carried out.

An important element in the duties of the University Surveyor will be to ensure that the University has in place an effective estate strategy which will include appropriate mechanisms to review space utilisation. The successful candidate will be expected to have first-class administrative, managerial and financial skills and to have appropriate professional qualifications and experience in the field of buildings and/or estate management. The appointment is in the academic-related administrative grade 6, and the salary will not be less than £38,671 per annum.

Further particulars of the appointment may be obtained from the Deputy Registrar (Administration) Office, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD (tel. 0865 270003), to whom applications, including a detailed curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of two referees, should be sent by 11 January 1993.

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SIBS Ltd West Wing, Dayton House, 100-102, 101-103, 104-105, 106-107, 108-109, 110-111, 112-113, 114-115, 116-117, 118-119, 120-121, 122-123, 124-125, 126-127, 128-129, 130-131, 132-133, 134-135, 136-137, 138-139, 140-141, 142-143, 144-145, 146-147, 148-149, 150-151, 152-153, 154-155, 156-157, 158-159, 160-161, 162-163, 164-165, 166-167, 168-169, 170-171, 172-173, 174-175, 176-177, 178-179, 180-181, 182-183, 184-185, 186-187, 188-189, 190-191, 192-193, 194-195, 196-197, 198-199, 200-201, 202-203, 204-205, 206-207, 208-209, 210-211, 212-213, 214-215, 216-217, 218-219, 220-221, 222-223, 224-225, 226-227, 228-229, 230-231, 232-233, 234-235, 236-237, 238-239, 240-241, 242-243, 244-245, 246-247, 248-249, 250-251, 252-253, 254-255, 256-257, 258-259, 260-261, 262-263, 264-265, 266-267, 268-269, 270-271, 272-273, 274-275, 276-277, 278-279, 280-281, 282-283, 284-285, 286-287, 288-289, 290-291, 292-293, 294-295, 296-297, 298-299, 300-301, 302-303, 304-305, 306-307, 308-309, 310-311, 312-313, 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1164-1165, 1166-1167, 1168-1169, 1170-1171, 1172-1173, 1174-1175, 1176-1177, 1178-1179, 1180-1181, 1182-1183, 1184-1185, 1186-1187, 1188-1189, 1190-1191, 1192-1193, 1194-1195, 1196-1197, 1198-1199, 1200-1201, 1202-1203, 1204-1205, 1206-1207, 1208-1209, 1210-1211, 1212-1213, 1214-1215, 1216-1217, 1218-1219, 1220-1221, 1222-1223, 1224-1225, 1226-1227, 1228-1229, 1230-1231, 1232-1233, 1234-1235, 1236-1237, 1238-1239, 1240-1241, 1242-1243, 1244-1245, 1246-1247, 1248-1249, 1250-1251, 1252-1253, 1254-1255, 1256-1257, 1258-1259, 1260-1261, 1262-1263, 1264-1265, 1266-1267, 1268-1269, 1270-1271, 1272-1273, 1274-1275, 1276-1277, 1278-1279, 1280-1281, 1282-1283, 1284-1285, 1286-1287, 1288-1289, 1290-1291, 1292-1293, 1294-1295, 1296-1297, 1298-1299, 1300-1301, 1302-1303, 1304-1305, 1306-1307, 1308-1309, 1310-1311, 1312-1313, 1314-1315, 1316-1317, 1318-1319, 1320-1

EDUCATION

Cutting edge of truancy

Where should
Whitehall and
individual schools
look for the elusive
solution to the
truancy problem?
James Burrell
reports

When, 18 months ago, John Patten grappled with rising crime rates at the Home Office, he saw the problem clearly. Almost half of the joy-riders, arsonists, burglars and other offenders whose records passed across his desk had been truants at school.

Mr Patten's elevation to the Cabinet in April as education secretary brought an early opportunity to respond. Truancy was suddenly brought to the top of his new department's agenda. It became almost a personal crusade as July's Education White Paper embellished the theme.

The "cycle of criminality" was too often triggered by the first moment of truancy. "It starts with hanging around street corners, drifting into shoplifting and stealing bicycles, progresses to petty burglary, perhaps becoming involved with drugs and then moves on to stealing cars or criminal damage. Before long, the journey from street corner to prison cell is complete," the White Paper says.

However, the problems of planning a detailed, cohesive strategy to combat truancy are soon apparent. How many children are undermining the education system, and wasting their talents and taxpayers' money, by missing school? Instead of useful national statistics, there is a black hole. Truants are expert at not being there to answer researchers' questions and, by definition, school registers miss the largest numbers of non-attenders who skip individual lessons after signing on each morning and afternoon.

The picture facing Mr Patten is inevitably blurred and incomplete. Truants miss lessons for a myriad of reasons: bright pupils want to catch up on GCSE coursework; Asian pupils can disappear for months just before their fourteenth birthday to take advantage of child



High marks: David Thomas, who has improved attendance by 13 per cent in two years at White Hart Lane School, Haringey

air fares to the sub-continent; some single parents rely on older children to stay home for company.

The biggest-ever survey of truancy, based on 40,000 pupils aged 14-16 at more than 50 schools, will provide a snapshot in the new year. It is expected to confirm earlier, smaller studies and report that about one in three pupils have been truants and that one in five have done so to avoid particular lessons.

North London University's £184,000 investigation, commissioned by the education department, and led by Dennis O'Keefe and Patricia Stoll, will again show that most children like school, but many hate certain subjects. It will beg questions about 13-year-olds, previously neglected in the belief that fourth and fifth-formers are the most frequent absconders.

The government's first national league tables, listing all attendance rates, will add more flesh next year. Other measures to make schools accountable are already in place. All 25,000 state primary and secondary schools in England and Wales must include an average unauthorised absence figure and the percentage of offending pupils in this year's prospectus.

But will the publicity actually shame teachers and education welfare officers into action? Will it be

enough to rely on local education authorities to tackle feckless parents who fail to ensure their children go to school by imposing a maximum fine recently increased to £1,000?

Warnings that national tables will be flawed because of the likely method of compilation go far beyond the "education establishment". Critics contend that

**'We followed the
three-Rs: rules, rights
and responsibilities'**

headteachers have too much leeway to decide whether pupils' absence is authorised — and exempt from statistics — or unauthorised. John Fowler, assistant secretary for education at the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, says this amounts to a "school's honour" system, an open invitation to subversion by schools. Dr O'Keefe dismisses it as a "licence to tell lies".

Yet, while there is almost universal scepticism of league tables as the solution to truancy, most acknowledge they may be a catalyst. Already local authorities are preparing for the shock therapy of these rankings. Teachers are paying to attend seminars at North London University, which is rapid-

ly gaining currency with its radical alternative to traditional theory.

Dr O'Keefe argues that the importance of truancy is not as an indicator of inner-city deprivation or fledgling criminality — just as many boys as girls truant but do not go on to offend. Instead it is a key measure of schools' performance. Children who choose to miss particular lessons are engaged in the "purest form of decision-making". Truants are rational consumers. By taking the school menu à la carte, they reveal which subjects or teachers are unsatisfactory and require remedy. His approach implies there is no grand solution to truancy, but a series of answers discovered by individual schools as they identify and confront their particular problems.

Amid the confusion, Mr Patten is perhaps gaining clues from the actions of 31 authorities who have been given their head under a three year £6 million government education support grant programme which, started in 1990, White Hart Lane School, in Haringey, north London, was on the verge of collapse in 1989. Just 72 per cent of pupils turned up on average, with up to four out of ten fifth-formers away some days.

Attendance was used as a focus for concerted action to turn the 720-strong school around. A £186,000 grant brought coffee rooms with televisions for each year group, regular newsletters to keep parents in touch and inscribed mugs to reward pupils with 100 per cent attendance records. New stress was laid on school rules, uniform, detailed attendance targets and spot classroom checks to combat post-registration truancy. Special classes were provided to help pupils return after long-term absence.

"We followed the three-Rs: rules, rights and responsibilities," David Thomas, the project co-ordinator, says. "We tried to make the school more welcoming for pupils and parents, while making the teachers, not the local authority, responsible for pupils as well as the teaching and curriculum to attract them."

White Hart Lane's attendance jumped by almost 13 per cent within two years and the school's target of 90 per cent is firmly within its sights. The number of pupils staying on beyond 16 has doubled.

Other authorities are harnessing new computer technology to streamlined registration. Teachers at Warwick Park School, in Peckham, for example, now receive a daily class print-out to double-check attendance for individual lessons.

So there is progress, and effort, and movement. Ironically, however, the lesson for Mr Patten appears to be that truancy is a hydra which cannot be slain from Whitehall.

Policy walks a tightrope

IS ENGLISH education walking a tightrope between success and disaster? In some ways this is true at all levels — schools, vocational education and training, and higher education.

The school system — state and independent — is in turmoil. The government wants nothing less than a revolution. A national curriculum is being constructed at breakneck speed and imposed on schools by law. New management techniques and financial mechanisms are intended to create the semblance of a market in education. Examinations are being multiplied. More information is being demanded for parents —

vocational education and training, not just as preparation for a narrowly specific job, but as preparation for working life.

More by luck than good judgment, successive education secretaries have blundered into clever and thrifty expansionist policies for higher education. It is a remarkable turn-round from the days when Sir Keith Joseph wanted to cut back in order to save money and raise standards.

The change in funding arrangements changed the climate from contraction to expansion. The money the universities get from the government funds comes in two main parts: a fee element, directly

related to the number of students and a general grant-in-aid. By increasing the fee element, the government gave the universities an incentive to get more students. But the additional numbers were covered only by the fee element. The rest of the grant did not go up in line. So student numbers rose but unit costs fell. But, again, it is a precarious basis for expansion. You cannot indefinitely reduce the ration and expect the patient to remain healthy. Marginal financing can work only at the margin.

The Chancellor's Autumn Statement said the tap is to be turned off: the expansion of recent years is to taper off. Funding for next year will assume no increase in 1993 new admissions over 1992. The fee element for arts and social science students will be reduced, so competition will become sharper. There will be a cash incentive for the universities to favour science and technology — but students for these courses are in short supply.

Running universities is a long-term business. Short-term switches of direction are expensive and inefficient. The expansion policies the government stumbled on revealed a huge unmet and unacknowledged demand for higher education — a demand that must have been there all along.

Instead of pursuing this aim with confidence, the universities must start once more to walk the tightrope hoping, against hope, that it will all be all right on the night.

VIEWPOINT



Stuart Maclure

A new book will help teachers — and pupils — understand the Holocaust

Explaining the ultimate inhumanity

Studying the Holocaust is now part of the National Curriculum for pupils as young as 13. This is one of the most discussed and controversial events of the 20th century, but for most of us — and that includes many teachers — the subject is beyond comprehension.

Schools are inadequately resourced and much of the informed literature is inaccessible, particularly to those in their early teens. With so many teachers ill-equipped to deal with the enormity of one of the most momentous events in human history, it is hardly surprising that some of them choose not to teach it at all, and, of those that do, many teach it very badly.

Ronnie Landau, the head of humanities at London's City Literary Institute and one of Britain's most experienced teachers

and teacher-trainers of the Holocaust, has set out to fill the void with a new book on the subject, *The Nazi Holocaust*. While welcoming the subject onto the National Curriculum, he needs some convincing that 13 is an appropriate age or level at which to introduce pupils to what he believes is potentially the ultimate humanities topic. "We must understand that the Holocaust, for all its freakishness, was a human event — all too human."

"Without losing sight of the incomparable uniqueness of the Holocaust as an entire event it is educationally essential to break it down into a range of limited human experiences, motives, crises and responses, with which it might be easier to identify and which can stand comparison

with other predicaments."

Having married into a survivor family, Landau admits that talking to his parents-in-law about what had happened to them, added a totally different dimension to his view of the Holocaust. "Probably 90 per cent of what has already been written identifies with the Jews as victims. I wanted to lift the material out of the world of the victim and away from what for many people has become 'sacred Jewish territory'."

He writes: "If there are any lessons to be derived from the Holocaust, there is no sense whatever in ascribing its execution to Satanic monsters, for then it becomes unrelated to what is humanly intelligible. Such a reading of Nazism would involve an abstract dehumanisation of Nazis — and often indis-

criminately of all Germans — which was precisely the Nazi attitude towards Jews."

Sympathetic to the daunting task facing any teacher attempting to teach the subject, Landau believes that "if taught skilfully and responsibly, it can help socialise and even 'civilise' our students. If taught badly, it can traumatise and encourage a purely negative view of all Jewish history, of Jewish people and, indeed of all victim groups."

Landau was, from 1981-89, educational director of the Spiro Institute for the Study of Jewish History and Culture, based at Westfield College, London. More recently, he was a founding director of the British Holocaust Education Project. He has lectured widely in the United States, former Soviet Union and Israel.



Dark memories: Nazis are forced to bury victims after Allied troops liberated Belsen concentration camp

After ten years grappling with the ideas and approaches of numerous educationists, historians, psychologists and writers from many countries, Landau has written a book which approaches the subject and its lessons within several important different contexts. These include Jewish history, modern German history, "genocide" during both the 19th and 20th centuries, and the psychology of human prejudice and racism.

The fact that Landau had to find an academic publisher for his project did not surprise him. "Educational publishers

insisted on knowing exactly where my book would be slotted. Was it aimed at sixth formers, teachers or university students? This isn't something you can pigeon hole. It crosses many subject boundaries."

Teachers must try to reconcile the intimidating demands of the subject content with the changing experience, awareness, and values of the students and, inescapably, those of the society and times in which they live, Landau says.

SUE FOX

● The Nazi Holocaust by Ronnie S. Landau is published by I.B. Tauris & Co (£12.95).

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COMMENT

Cadbury tastes better than Sugar

Early voting returns suggest Alan Sugar has failed to convince thousands of fellow Amstrad shareholders that his scheme to buy them out at 30p a share is a good deal. Many object to being offered so much less than the 46p per share asset value recently published in the accounts, much of which was then in cash. Some are unhappy on more emotional grounds. Resistance is not confined to indignant small shareholders. Two big names among the institutions, which control most of the shares eligible to be voted at Amstrad's meeting on Thursday, have stuck their heads above the parapet. Andrew Threadgold of Postel will vote its stake of nearly 2 per cent against, partly because he has not had enough independent information on prospects to put his own value on the company and is not prepared to rely on Mr Sugar's altruism.

Amstrad's founder might chuckle at such use of words, but cannot see the difficulty. He wants to take his group private, reckons he knows its worth and that he is offering a fair deal. Were it not for the timing and contradictions, that might be a sensible idea. Mr Sugar never really got used to running a public company and being accountable to the City. He still seems to see Amstrad as his company. He did not relish running Amstrad as it had become, so instead of handing over to someone else, his instinct was to change it to what he wants, offering those tiresome investors "a graceful exit".

Amstrad's boss would also make his exit from the listed company arena, which promises to become even less congenial to an independent-minded venture as the new thinking embodied in the Cadbury code of corporate governance takes hold. There is no better example of the need for such a code than Amstrad. This was a one-man band if ever there was one. Going public and selling shares to passive investors should be the signal to change all that.

Had a non-executive chairman been installed to complement Mr Sugar, leaving him to the trading, the group would surely have kept a better image in the City and investors would surely have understood it better, even if that made not a jot of difference to the ups and downs of business. In practice, a wider board perspective should have helped avoid mistakes made when Mr Sugar turned Amstrad into something more complex and left it undermanaged. Amstrad might have planned earlier for stiffer competition and the apparent lack of new blockbuster products, which has struck Mr Sugar as a bolt from the blue. It might even have planned to do without its trading genius.

Even if independent non-executive directors had failed miserably to do what they were paid for, as is so often the case, they would at least have been able to play a role in Mr Sugar's attempted buy-in, avoiding the rancour and suspicion from former admirers that now surround him. They would have taken independent advice and tried to evaluate the terms and the other options on behalf of shareholders with much more objectivity. Sadly, they were not there.

Many institutions, ever eager for the quiet life and lowest risk, may be tempted to draw a line under Amstrad as an incurable relic of the old school. That might give the wrong message. How much better to say no and accept the challenge of making Amstrad a model for the future. Given its brand names and distribution system, good management should be able to make the company worth more than the balance sheet value of its assets. Mr Sugar is a fighter and might well take up that challenge. This may be a lean time for new consumer electronics. Amstrad's formula of spotting exciting new products and tailoring them for a mass market should have a long-term future. If Mr Sugar felt he could not adapt, or would prefer to try again elsewhere, other able folk are lean and hungry enough to fill the gap.

Damoclean headlines blur truth about the extent of job losses

Companies announce intended redundancies to impress shareholders and flatter balance sheets, writes Anatole Kaletsky

What on earth is going on? Government officials are saying with growing assurance that the recession is now over and that statistics bear them out. Yet anybody who reads newspapers or listens to the chairman of Britain's leading companies will know that the story they present is very different. Retail sales and car registrations may be rising faster in Britain than in any other industrialised country. The money supply may be expanding, stock prices hitting new records and even house prices finally stabilising. But workers are being sacked in ever-increasing numbers, with 17,500 job losses announced on Thursday alone, as the *Financial Times* noted at the weekend. While the scourge of unemployment strikes terror across the land, consumers and house-buyers will not start to spend.

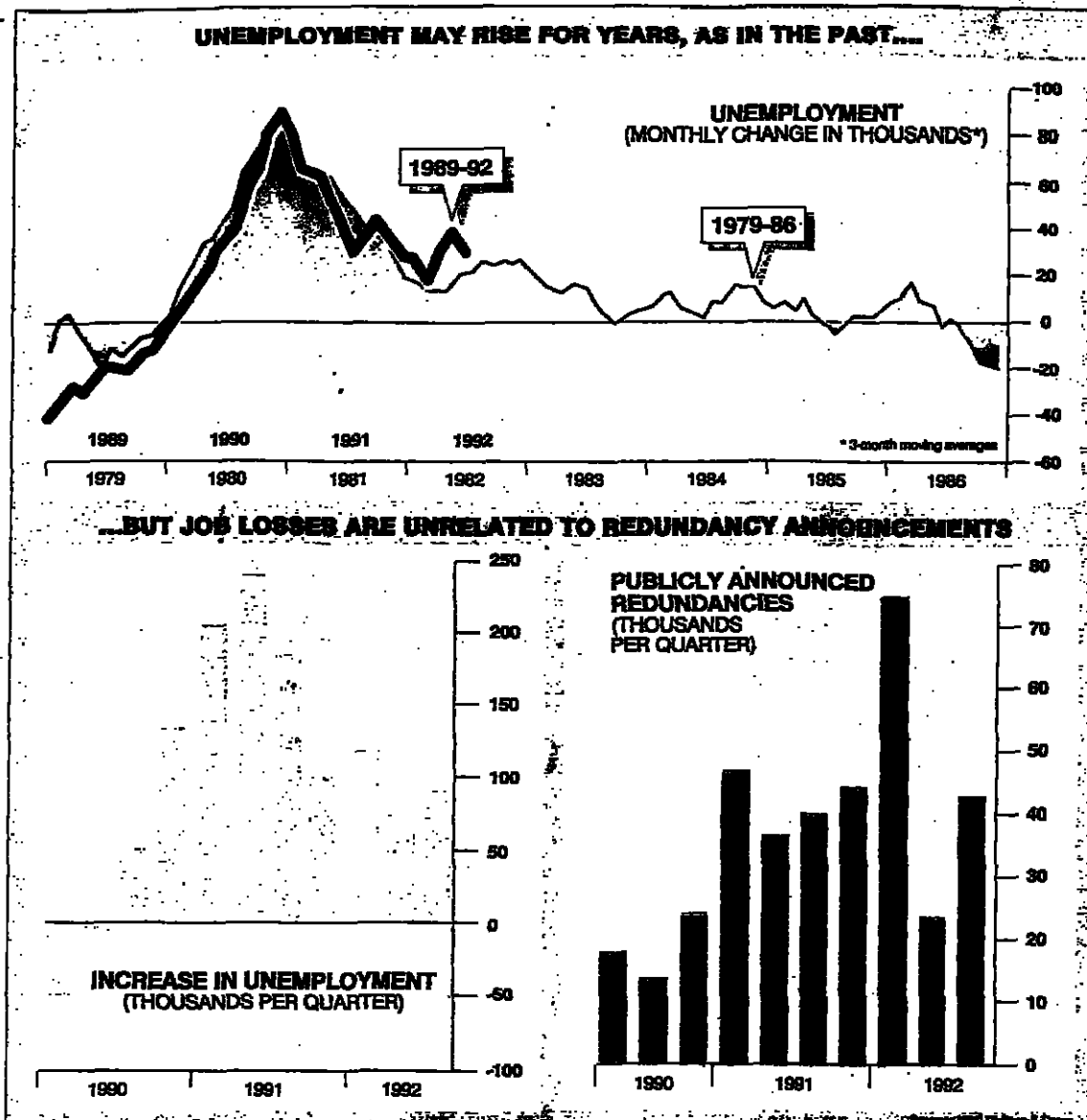
That seems to be the conventional wisdom among businessmen and economic forecasters. It is almost certainly wrong. This is a time to believe the relatively favourable official statistics, rather than gloomy surveys of confidence and grim warnings from businessmen.

I do not want to sound Panglossian. The official statistics suggest only a feeble recovery — too weak, for example, to avert the impending bankruptcy of the British government described in this column two weeks ago. But these long-term problems can be put to one side until they turn into financial crises in the usual British way. In the meantime, the country can start to enjoy some modest consumer-led growth.

But what about those blood-curdling headlines on unemployment? "Post Office to axe 16,000 in new surge of job losses", *The Times* declared on Friday. How can there be any hope of a consumer-led recovery at a time like this?

As a journalist, it pains me to do it, but as an economist I must reveal the truth: the newspaper headlines can be completely ignored. The first reason is that unemployment always continues to rise for many months after a recession is over. The second is far more interesting: in this recession, company directors are deliberately exaggerating their determination to "axe" thousands of jobs.

Before unemployment can start to fall, its rate of increase must gradually decline towards zero. This is exactly what has been happening since the middle of last year as the top chart shows. Why, then, the widespread impression that the rate of redundancies is growing, that, to quote *The Times* front page last Friday, "the



wave of redundancies has turned into a flood? In general, the papers are only reporting what the captains of industry are saying. But these people, at the same time as calling on ministers to "restore confidence", are engaging in a bizarre contest to publicise and exaggerate their ferocity in destroying jobs.

Take last week's announcement of the 16,000 jobs "axed" by the Post Office. The small print showed these cuts would be implemented over five years, had almost nothing to do with the recession and would be introduced "as painlessly as possible", through natural wastage. The Post Office announcement was not an isolated incident. Two weeks earlier, the Royal Bank of Scotland announced 3,500 "job cuts". But these two, were to be spread over five years and achieved by natural wastage. In fact, the reduction in the bank's staff in the year ahead was not likely to be bigger than the fall that had occurred in the past 12 months.

As Terry Smith, the former head of equity research at UBS Phillips & Drew, now working at Collins Stewart & Co, observes: "In all my years of following the banks, I cannot think of a single case where all the job

reductions they announced have actually taken place." Why then all the sound and fury about job cuts? First, there is the cult of management machismo. In the late 1980s, managers used to brag about "maximising shareholder values". In practice, this meant that companies vie with each other to take on ever-larger debts in order to pay out inflated dividends, or make leveraged takeovers and buyouts. Today, "effective management" is considered synonymous with laying off workers.

Rigorous cost-control does, of course, mean keeping staff numbers on a much tighter rein than in the boom years of the 1980s. But well-managed companies keep staff numbers under constant review. They were introducing labour-saving technology even faster in the late 1980s than they are today and they have had rolling programmes of rationalisations, workforce reductions or redeployments. The difference is that today they feel the need to shout about them. In part, this is a fact, but there is a more fundamental reason. Managers today are under more pressure from shareholders to deliver results than in the leverage boom of the

1980s. Announcing redundancies impresses shareholders.

"Labour force reduction is a message that is generally well-received by shareholders," concedes one of Britain's leading consultants on shareholder relations. "It is seen as evidence of strong management and a willingness to take tough decisions. If there are any costs, analysts will tend to discount them as exceptional items, while the benefits go straight through to earnings per share. Sometimes, people come to us who are planning redundancies and ask us whether to make an announcement. From a shareholder relations point of view we will usually recommend it. Even if there is no material financial impact, shareholders will usually see it as positive news."

A partner in one of the City's biggest financial public relations firms goes further: "We have had many cases where redundancies were mentioned at the bottom of a press release and the chairman has insisted they be put right at the top. Especially if dividends are being cut, shareholders like to see that managers are sharing the pain with the workforce. In one case, a client of ours announced 2,000 redundancies and

one of his competitors in the same industry rang us up. 'How did X get away with it?' the competitor said. 'Those 2,000 redundancies were the same as the ones X announced last year and I will bet he won't get those jobs out this year either. You PR people are doing a great job for X.' But the fashion for accentuating the negative is not just a matter of PR. More important, according to several investment analysts and shareholder relations advisers, is the impact on a company's reported profits of expressing an intention to fire.

At present, redundancy costs can often be reported as an "extraordinary item" in a company's accounts and does not therefore affect the earnings per share from continuing operations, which is the key to the stock market's judgment on how well a company is doing and how well its dividend is covered. By contrast, the lower staff costs implied by a five-year redundancy programme can be calculated by analysts and will tend to improve earnings projections.

This accounting imbalance between the costs and benefits of redundancies has always existed, but it has recently been exacerbated by a new, and ironic, development. According to many accountants, the present accounting method, known as Statement of Standard Accounting Practice 6, has been far too lax in allowing companies to present redundancies as extraordinary items. Terry Smith notes: "I know of one major food company that has had redundancy costs as an extraordinary item every year in the last eight years — this is an abuse not only of the accounts, but as a result accountants have agreed to introduce a new, more rigorous approach, known as Financial Reporting Standard 3."

Under FRS 3, redundancy costs can be charged only as they are paid out and must come out of reported profits. But FRS 3 does not come into full effect until June next year. Companies that have not yet switched to FRS 3 are therefore under a strong temptation to announce as many redundancies as possible before then, even if these are unlikely to be implemented for years (if at all). Once FRS 3 is introduced, companies making the switch will have to restate their earnings from 1992 under the new standard. But, as Mr Smith observes, and several other analysts confirm off the record, there is nothing companies like more than revising profits from past years downwards, since this flatters current-year figures.

I do not know how much of this nonsense is going on and how many "axed" jobs will reappear one day as profitable write-backs of redundancy provisions. But I do know the facts presented in the lower chart, kindly compiled by Sarah Lewis of UBS Phillips & Drew: redundancy announcements bear no relation to the number of jobs actually lost. So next time the newspapers warn you about the sword of Damocles hanging over your job, turn to another story.

Institutions should replace Amstrad management

From Mr G. Lakmaker

The article headed "Missing the Point" (Comment, December 1) was very helpful. The small Amstrad shareholders have no chance of defeating the resolutions to be

put at the EGM on December 10 without the help of the institutions. But who are the institutions?

When looking through the share register, I find out that of the 30 shareholders holding more than one million shares

there are 17 nominees, four banks and five trustee companies.

I am given to understand that as an individual I cannot get the names of the owners of the shares. (I am sure Mr Sugar will correct me again if my information is wrong.) Only the company can demand this disclosure.

This seems to put Mr Sugar and his directors in a very advantageous position, giving them the opportunity to convince (or frighten) the institutions.

The small shareholders do not have the opportunity to make their opinions or suggestions known without the assistance of the press. It was reported in *The Sunday Times* (Jeff Randall, November 22): "Few fund managers are delighted by Sugar's proposed terms, but equally, they know the company is worth very little without him." Is this country so poor that we only have one entrepreneur?

While promising to do his best for the company if he is defeated (after all, he owns 34 per cent) Mr Sugar said at the annual meeting: "I became depressed about Amstrad losing its way, and want to exit from a bottomless pit of problems."

Through this letter, I implore the institutions to defeat the resolutions and appoint a new, hungry management which still has the incentive to rebuild this well-established company of ours.

Yours faithfully,
G. LAKMAKER,
41 Gayton Road,
Harrow, Middlesex.

Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

Talking turkey at Safeway

From Mr D. G. C. Webster

Sir, I am replying to Mr Cover's letter of December 3 relating to Safeway's current promotion of Christmas turkeys.

Safeway is fully committed to supporting British farmers. Evidence of this can be seen through our work on the Strathclyde Food Project which aims to reduce the £5 billion trade gap of imported food and drink by developing further opportunities for British food producers.

Our current major turkey promotion consists mainly of British birds. We normally carry a small quantity of French poultry as an additional

source of supply. However, to put this into perspective, last year Safeway sold 376,000 British turkeys and 104,000 French. This year, due to the success of the promotion, we have sold 576,000 British turkeys, 200,000 more than last year, and 149,000 French.

I feel it is also important to point out that our total annual poultry purchases are 96 per cent British and 4 per cent French, including turkeys.

Yours faithfully
D. G. C. WEBSTER
Deputy Chairman,
Argyll Group Plc,
8 Chesterfield Hill,
W1.

Why it is right to subsidise small farmers

From Sir Julian Rose

Sir, In European View (December 1), Wolfgang Münchau's appraisal of French farmers' opposition to the Gatt round fails to come up with a convincing economic argument for replacing the subsidised "small farmer" with a more market force inspired, unaided agriculture.

Like many commentators, Mr Münchau fails to recognise that it is a flawed conventional wisdom which views economic advancement as detached from social, cultural and environmental advancement. An accurate assessment of the most efficient way to produce food comes up with the surprising fact that the small-scale, skilled, low-tech producer will nearly always show a greater return per hectare than the large-scale, high-tech equivalent. The small-scale producer, more reliant upon human input and the maximisation of local renewable resources, approach-

es his/her land in a far more detailed and thorough way than the supermarket inspired one man with one tractor on 500 hectares ever can. It is highly unlikely that the world will ever be able to feed itself through forcing the rural workforce off the land and into overcrowded cities hundreds of miles from the point of food production. It is high time that we woke up to the imminent demise of our own smaller-scale family farms, currently succumbing at the rate of 10,000 a year to our own government as well as Gatt-style policies, hell bent on "efficient" factory farming, tailored to meet highly centralised mass production policies and the ecologically destabilising monoculture cropping patterns that follow in their wake.

Yours faithfully,
SIR JULIAN ROSE,
Hardwick Estate Office,
Hardwick House,
Whitchurch, Reading.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Rhyming secrets of regulators

FIRST insider trading, now insider rhyming. The publication of the cheeky *Poems from the Square Mile* has set City cognoscenti guessing who the anonymous scribes might be. Far from being the teenage scribbles many supposed, the two rhymersters — pseudonyms Gog and Magog — are distinguished City regulators. This gives added spice to some of the poems in the book, in particular the last one, which can now be seen as an insight into what the regulators really think.

"They said that regulation, would clean up all the mess; That all that's wrong, just carries on. They'd rather not confess." Gog, we are told, is a lawyer in the futures and options area and Magog a senior investment regulator. They met at regulatory meetings and discovered their "common interest". They are not willing to go public, but their secret may be out before much longer.

City jumble

FROM January 1, the newly expanded Hongkong and Shanghai bank will have its headquarters in London, but let us hope its new chief executive, John Bond, will not try to use the bank's Christmas card as a route map. If he does, he is likely to suffer severe disappointment or be extremely lost. The snowy river panorama shows the Monument to the wrong side of St Paul's, the cathedral steps leading down to the river, the Lloyd's build-



ing a stone's throw from the Tower, and the Commercial Union building with its windows intact. There is, however, a bright star over the City to help wise men find their way.

Tense finish

AFTER a nail-biting weekend, merchant bankers should get the nod today as to the government's choice of adviser for the £5 billion BT3 share offer. The job is worth £10 million or more in fees and the Treasury last week finished its "beauty parade" of the 12 candidates. SG Warburg is a strong bet after coming up with the "no underwriting" breakthrough on BT2. Another favourite is the unusual combination of Schroders and Smith New Court — normally SNC would bid with main shareholder NM Rothschild, but the latter is tied up as BT's adviser. The usual crowd, including Kleinwort Benson, also have a chance, while Baring Brothers and Robert Fleming are the outsiders that are believed to have given the government food for thought.

Seelig's return

WHILE Lord Spens celebrated his Guinness acquittal, former Morgan Grenfell corporate financier Roger Seelig was happily hidden away in the English countryside this weekend. He was able to deny for himself rumours that he had "run off to find himself in India". Seelig suffered a nervous breakdown while defending himself in court during the Guinness trial but says a hermit's life in an ashram would not be for him. "I've been round the world on a mixture of business, charity and pleasure and southern India was all three," he says. Indian ventures are a possibility, but "I was rather keen to do something closer to home," Seelig admits. Next year will reveal more. "I'm fit and well and determined to start the new year more actively, one way or another."

Smiles at the BBC Business Breakfast programme where the first early-bird Christmas card has just arrived. The sender, aptly enough — the Post Office.

Watch
News at Ten tonight
and see a
small boy
consumed by
a big cat.



CHANNEL 4

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Cartoons (60620)

7.00 The Big Breakfast presented by Chris Evans and Gaby Roslin (59593)

9.00 You Bet Your Life. Game show hosted by Bill Cosby (s) (6935549)

9.25 Film: Make Mine a Million (1959, b/w) A short season of Arthur Askey comedy opens with an arfiable laker about a down-market detective and the efforts of the male (Sid James) to have it plugged on television. Directed by Lance Compton (6917552)

0.55 Potters at Work. A silent look at the potter's art in Japan (t) (4586378)

1.30 Credo: The Vatican and Italy. The first of a new series examines the long-love relationship the Italians have with the Vatican (5397)

2.00 High to Fly (t). (Teletext) (s) (67303)

2.30 Seaside Street. Early leasing series (19200) 1.30 Dr Snuggles.

2.00 Film: The Catered Affair (1956, b/w) starring Bette Davis, Debbie Reynolds and Ernest Borgnine. Worthy social comedy about a working class Irish-American mother determined that her daughter will have a grand wedding. Directed by Richard Brooks (83620)

3.40 Copenhagen. A tour round the Danish capital (s) (6131216)

4.00 Spirit of Trees. Dick Warner is in California's White Mountains admiring the world's oldest living tree (t). (Teletext) (939)

4.30 Green To Go. Fast-moving general knowledge quiz (s) (823)

5.00 The Late Show. Dublin's music and chat show: hosted by Gay Byrne (s) (9007)

5.00 My Two Dads. American comedy (t) (s) (216)

5.30 The Wonder Years. Comedy series about growing up in 1960s America (t) (966)

5.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) Teletext (966378)

5.50 The Convent. A comedy thriller for confidence in Carel Houk for disavowal (958920)

6.00 Brookside. Soap set in suburban Merseyside (Teletext) (s) (9484)



Whodunnit: James Faulkner suffers a fatal dose (9.00pm)

9.00 The Blackdeath Poisonings.
CHOICE: Julian Symonds's Victorian murder mystery comes to the screen in a stylish three-part adaptation by Simon Raven. After a graphic opening, which will give ammunition to those who think there is too much unnecessary sex on the screen, the piece settles into a traditional whodunit, with a closed circle of suspects and much discussion about who doctored the fatal dose. Additional pleasure comes from the portrait of an apparently respectable business family, determined to keep its scandals out of the public eye. The relations between the collection of suspects, and once you are clear about who belongs to whom the narrative flows smoothly, helped by a well-picked cast which includes Judy Parfitt, Zoë Wamaker and Patrick Malahide. Part two is being shown tomorrow and the final episode later in the week. (Oracle) 5 (8303)

10.00 News at Ten. (Oracle) Weather (54262) **10.30 Thames News** (135736)

10.40 Snooker. The concluding frames of the second quarter-final in the World Mastership championship. (91359113)

11.20am Entertainment UK. Weekly listings for the week. (55514)

11.30 Sport AM. Highlights of the Gaelic football match between Donegal and Ulster (29021)

12.30 Film: The Trap (1975) starring Lino Ventura and Ingrid Thulin. Creepy French drama about a woman who lures her former husband to her remote country house on the pretence that she wants to sell the place. But the last thing she wants is to get rid of the past. Directed by Pierre Granier-Deferre (569369)

14.05 Twilight Zone: Our Selenia Is Dying. A tale of the supernatural starring George C. Scott as a woman determined to defy death at any cost. (7) (48454695)

14.30 Music Special. Herbie Mann in concert (5) (59760)

10.30 ITN Morning News (11069). Ends at 6.00

3.30 **Desmond's**. Amiable comedy set in a Peckham barber's shop (George from Walla) who falls for a nurse (Teletext) (s) (85911)

3.40 **Cutting Edge: Special Treatment**. An investigation into allegations of malpractice and abuse at Broadmoor high security mental hospital (6845)

4.00 **A Bit of a Do**. Episodic sex of David Nobbs's seven-part comedy drama starring David Jason and Nicola Peggitt (r). (Teletext) (3804)

4.00 **Catholics and Sex**. The third of the four-part series examines the Church's attitude to marriage and how the ideal of one sexual partner has been replaced by the reality of multiple partners (6503)

4.20 **Film: Who's Afraid of Red, Yellow & Blue?** (r) (1901) starring Stephanie Philip and Max Tofel. German drama about an artist's model who exacts revenge on her painter/lover when he dumps her after making a name for himself. Small English subtitles. Directed by Heiko Schfer (180359). Ends at 1.55

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

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SATELLITE

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000 Bibles (97938)	11.30	Basketball
001 The 12 Apostles (9719)	1.00pm	John (8757)
002 Sports Special (9991)	9.00	NBA
003 NHL on Hockey (43303)	8.30	Football
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005 NHL on Hockey (43303)	8.30	Football
006 Bowling (90587)	11.30	Shooter
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birth (1990). A boy

(s) Stereo on FM
5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00
News Briefing, incl 6.03
Weather 6.10 Farming Today
6.25 Prayer for the Week
6.30 6.35 6.40 6.50 7.00 7.30, 8.00
6.30 News 6.45
Business News 6.55, 7.55
News 7.25, 8.25, 8.55
News 7.45 Thought for the
Day 8.35 The Week on 4.8.43
Anglo Soud: Andy Kershaw
reflects on the impact of
the historical precedent for
the hostilities in Anglie (s)
8.58 Weather 9.00 News
9.00 Daily Services (LW only) from
Melvyn Bragg and guests (s)
10.00-10.30 News; Questions of
the Week (PM only): Chris Kelly
hosts a pod and an quiz
With Bob Payton, Tessa
Prinze, Malcolm Gluck and
Valentina Herie (s)
10.00 Daily Services (LW only) from
St Paul's Girls' School, west
London
10.18 Paradise Lost (LW only):
John Milton's poem (2441)
10.30 10.40 The Hour chooses
the morning behind the girls we
choose. Incl 11.00 News
11.30 Money Box Live: 071-580-
4444. Lines open from 10am
12.00 12.10 Yours, with Robin
McAuley
12.25pm Word of Mouth: Frank
Delaney explores festive
salutations (s) 12.55 Weather
1.00 1.10 The World at One, with
James Naughtie
1.40 The Archers (s) (r) 1.55
Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Stardust: Roger
Sutton's play recaps the
mood and music of Glenn
Miller and his American Band
of the AEF, who toured Britain
before Miller's ill-fated flight
on 12 December 15, 1945,
with Ed Bishop (s) (r)
3.30 CHOICE: Andre Deutsch
who 40 years ago edited the
first Penguin books that bears
his name, is probably unique
among publishers in not
having left regret that a poem
heaped through him and
Tina Turner. However, he admits to
say MacGregor that he did
turn down his connection with
books. In this connection, the
name of Jeffrey Archer crops
up. Andre Deutsch once
turned him down. "That was a
mistake", says MacGregor,
"because, for all I could be
either a question or a
statement. "No, I don't think so",
comes a reply that is just as
a proposal (s)
4.00 News
4.05 Kaleskopos talks to Bill
Brown, the musical architect of
the 1960s; reviews
recording from the Britten
Quartet; and investigates
Finnish traditional music (s)
4.45 4.55 The World Tonight
by Mervyn Bragg, Read by Kate
Binchy (s)
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast
5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue:
Humphrey Lyttelton chairs the
annual panel of
Willy Russell, Paul Merton,
Graeme Garden and Barry
Cryer (s)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers (s)
7.20 7.30 The Prime Time
7.45 The Monday Play: Anzaco.
Michele Calisto's drama is set
in Haiti in 1950. Told in
flashback by two Christian
missionaries, it charts the
struggle by the island's peace-
loving people Anzaco to
save her people from the
Quakers' conquistadors. With
M. Sotomayor (s)
8.15 Kaleskopos (s) (r)
9.45 The Financial World
Tonight, with Roger White (s)
9.55 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with
Richard Kershaw (s)
10.45 A Book at Bedtime:
MacGregor's Wonderful Saloon.
Oscar of a Gin Mill, Ed
Welsh: reads the first of
eighty stories from Joseph
Mitchell's collection of New
Yorker anecdotes (s)
11.00 11.10 The Night Hawk:
The Income Tax Demand, by Alan
Simpson and Ray Gallon.
Slamming Tony Hancock,
with Rodney Jones, Sir Kari and
Kathryn Williams (s)
11.30 12.00 In Parliament
12.00-12.45am News, incl 12.27
Weather 12.33 Shipping 12.45
As World Service (LW only)

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**This will be Tom's
first Christmas.
£25 will help
to ensure it's not
his last.**

Christmas is a dangerous time for thousands of children. But you can help them with a donation of £25. That more than covers the cost of a visit by a NSPCC Child Protection Officer to a child at risk. Please help this Christmas by sending as much as you can afford.

I WANT TO HELP A CHILD RIGHT NOW.

I enclose my Cheque/P.O. for: £75 ☐ £50 ☐ £25 ☐ £ _____

I would like to donate by Access/Visa/Master, expiry date: _____

ACCOUNT NUMBER

Send your donation to: Christopher Brown: Ref 931539 NPPCC
FREEPOST, London, EC1B 1QQ. Or ring 071-242 1626.

NAME: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss _____
ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

We never make your name and address available to other donors.

NPPCC

Anatole Kaletsky
puts job picture
in proper focus

BUSINESS

MONDAY DECEMBER 7 1992

AMSTRAD VOTE 33, 35

Options are being
discussed if Alan Sugar
fails in his offer

Bankers agree waivers on GPA debt deals

BY NEIL BENNETT
BANKING
CORRESPONDENT

BANKERS to GPA Group, the troubled Irish aircraft leasing group, have agreed a series of waivers on agreements for the company's \$3.5 billion borrowings, to allow the company to continue negotiating a debt restructuring. GPA is already accepting that the company that would emerge from a deal with the banks would be smaller and less profitable.

Sources close to the negotiations said the waivers should be completed next week and will free GPA from the requirement to tell the banks at regular intervals that there has been no material adverse change in its operations.

A majority of GPA's 100 banks agreed to the waivers that the company needs to avoid being in breach of its loan covenants. The waivers will cover both GPA's main \$2.1 billion Corporate Credit

■ The way has been cleared for GPA to negotiate a refinancing. If successful, the dominant aircraft leasing company would be left in a much more modest shape

Facility, the \$1.1 billion Associated Credit Facility and the smaller interim credit facility and Japanese club loan.

GPA's success in gaining co-operation from its banks is the first stage in the complex debt restructuring being organised by Citibank.

The group wants to defer \$900 million of principal repayments for up to two years because of its inability to raise funds on the capital markets after the withdrawal of its \$800 million share flotation this summer. The company is talking to leading aircraft makers to try to defer or cancel some of the \$5 billion of orders GPA hopes that if those two negotiations are successful, it will be able to return to the capital markets to finance future plane acquisitions.

Maurice Foley, GPA's deputy chairman, who is in charge of the negotiations, said: "All these issues derive from a loss of confidence in the capital markets. Our view is we can come back to the markets with sales of investment products as soon as we have the banks and aircraft manufacturers in place."

But GPA's senior executives recognise that even if they succeed in all the negotiations, it will be many years before the group is as profitable and fast-growing as it was at the start of the year.

GPA's profits will suffer in future due to the increase in interest the banks are demanding on their loans and the removal of discounts the group was able to arrange from aircraft makers.

Citibank is one of GPA's largest creditors and is thought to be owed at least \$200 million. National Westminster has the largest exposure among British banks. It has agreed to be the agent bank in the negotiations and will have the responsibility of drawing up the final details and documentation for the restructuring. John Melbourne, the bank's director in charge of credit quality, is in charge of the talks.

GPA hopes to complete the talks in the first quarter of next year. The banks are being offered generous fees and interest rate margins if they agree to the terms. GPA currently pays only 0.85 per cent above the London interbank offered rate (Libor) on its main facility.

If the restructuring succeeds, the debt repayments will be made through a new facility called the deferred amount facility, which is expected to carry an interest margin of 2 per cent or more above the interbank rate. "This will be expensive. These things are always expensive," said one senior figure involved in the negotiations.



Talking terms with the banks: Maurice Foley, deputy chairman of GPA, left, with chairman Tony Ryan

Shrinking number of shops forecast

BY MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE number of shops in Britain will fall by 10 per cent during the 1990s as consumer spending continues to concentrate on the larger stores, Verdict Research, the specialist consultant, forecasts.

It has analysed the country's excess retail space and concluded that for retailers to return to the boom conditions of 1988, each household would have to spend an extra £250 a year. "This is clearly not going to happen. Our retailers will have to learn to live with overcapacity."

The key measure is real sales, that is excluding inflation, per sq ft of shopping space, which will have fallen by almost 1 per cent by the end of this year, the fourth year of decline, to stand 6.5 per cent lower than in the peak year of 1988. A modest recovery is forecast to start in the last quarter of next year, but even by 1996, real sales per sq ft will still be 1.3 per cent below their 1988 peak.

By the end of the 1990s, the total number of shops is expected to just exceed 250,000, which would suggest a decline of 26,000 over the decade. The fastest-growing sector in terms of floor space, Verdict believes, will be electricals. Variety stores such as BHS, and Marks and Spencer will grow almost as fast. The losers, it says, will be specialist food shops, TV rental businesses, menswear, footwear, furniture, jewellers and off-licences.

The Space Report, Verdict Research, 112 High Holborn, London W1V 6JS

Swiss Bank plans action on Maxwell loan

SWISS Bank Corporation, which sparked the collapse of Robert Maxwell's business empire a year ago, is planning legal action against prominent City firms to try to recover a £55.8 million loan to a Maxwell company (Neil Bennett writes). The money was lent to Adviser (188) to buy the First Tokyo Index Trust in the summer of 1991.

Swiss Bank is believed to have spent more than £2 million on legal and accountancy fees in the recovery of Adviser (188). This has only confirmed

that the shares in the trust were sold by Mr Maxwell to repay other debts in private companies. Recoveries at Robert Maxwell Group and its subsidiaries are not expected to allow Swiss Bank to recover its funds.

Swiss Bank's loan was secured on the shares in the investment trust. When Mr Maxwell secretly sold them, he promised he would repay the loan. The deadline was November 5, the day Mr Maxwell fell from his yacht off the Canary Isles. Swiss Bank then asked the Serious Fraud

Office to investigate the shares' disappearance, prompting the discovery of fraud.

A series of merchant banks and securities houses helped in the administration of the First Tokyo Index Trust and the takeover by Adviser (188). They include Morgan Stanley, the custodian of the trust's shares, Lehman Brothers, which is believed to have taken some of the shares as security on a loan and later sold them, and Henry Ansbacher, the merchant bank that handled Adviser (188)'s bid for the trust.

Brittan may lose his post as competition commissioner

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

SIR Leon Brittan could face his last big showdown as European competition commissioner for competition with the French government this month, when Paris set to announce a £5.4 billion state aid to SGS-Thomson, the ailing Franco-Italian consumer goods group.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French trade and industry minister, told *Le Figaro* last week that the aid "will be tied up by December 15". Meanwhile, within the commission, speculation is rife that Sir Leon will be moved from his present post in a reshuffle, to be finalised by Jacques Delors, the commission president, on December 23.

Sir Leon's spokesman insists that no one in the Brittan camp yet knows whether Sir Leon will hold on to the post, or whether his dream of becoming external relations commissioner will be realised. "Only Delors knows," he said. But commercial lawyers involved in competition law have been told by commission officials that Sir Leon will definitely move from competition, where he has won few friends in France and Italy, to the Community's two main bodies of large public sectors.

In June, Sir Leon gave the green light to an injection of £4 billion into Cie des Machines Bull, France's state-owned computer-systems group. However, Sir Leon was influenced in his decision by IBM's purchase of a 5.7 per cent stake in Bull, and he may seek changes in Thomson's ownership before allowing this second massive state injection into French industry. The Thomson cash will automatically have to be referred to Brussels.

The Italian government is expected to contribute £36 million to the aid package, but the majority is to be financed by the state-owned France Telecom and CEA-Industrie, the industrial engineering that it needs the money to help it double its share of the world semiconductor market to 5 per cent. The group's debt is about £750 million. Thomson is also involved in the EC's attempt to develop a high-definition television system, which could come unstuck in the new year.

Sir Leon will outline his vision of future competition policy in a speech in Brussels today.



Showdown with French: Sir Leon Brittan

Branch cuts damage banks

BY OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HIGH street banks are inflicting long-term damage on their business by closing hundreds of branches, according to The Boston Consulting Group, the management consultant.

A study, *Retail banking: will pruning branches kill the tree?*, argues that banks will save 2 per cent of their annual costs by closing 20 per cent of their network, but will lose up to half the customers of each branch closed. Small branches cost about £300,000 a year to run.

The group also believes the banks, in their closure programmes, are throwing away valuable opportunities

to win customers and sell savings products to branch visitors.

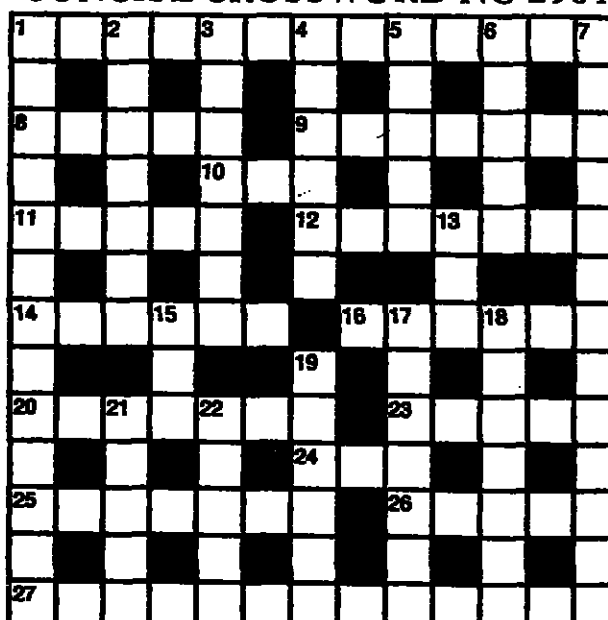
In the past decade, the total of high street bank branches has fallen 18 per cent, from a peak of 10,900 to 8,900. Most of the banks have even more ambitious closure programmes for the next five years. Barclays expects to shut 500 outlets to reduce its network to 1,900. Of the banks, only Midland has admitted that it has gone far enough in its closure programme and that it is now looking for other ways to reduce costs.

The survey shows that bank customers still use their branches regularly, visit-

ing an average of 2.4 times a month. Branch location is still a significant factor for people. Twenty-seven per cent of customers say that they chose their bank for its convenient location. Meanwhile, 80 per cent of the banks' life and pension sales come from branch leads.

The Boston group said that banks should redesign their systems to reduce the costs of running branches. "Branch closure is a red herring. It is more important to re-engineer branches to deliver products and services at lower cost," Simon Farmborough, the vice-president in charge of the survey, said.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2964



ACROSS

- 1 Retribution saying (2,3,3,2,3)
- 8 Convalescence (3,2)
- 9 In numerical data (7)
- 10 Sesame (3)
- 11 Concrete architect (5)
- 12 Noise blocker (7)
- 14 Interior (6)
- 16 Six singers (6)
- 20 Distant settlement (7)
- 23 Castrated cock fowl (5)
- 24 Mineral springs (3)
- 25 Make eligible (7)
- 26 Stage (5)
- 27 Individualist (13)

DOWN

- 1 Second great sea (8,5)
- 2 Forehead hair (7)
- 3 More vacant (7)
- 4 Masses (6)
- 5 Foresadow (5)
- 6 Praise (5)
- 7 Edification (13)
- 13 Peace (3)
- 15 Cleopatra snake (3)
- 17 Runaway (7)
- 18 Istanbul palace (7)
- 19 Actual thing (6)
- 21 Great god (5)
- 22 Surpass (5)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2963

- ACROSS: 1 Retiree 5 Dhal 9 Braille 10 Right 11 Keri 12 Lasting 14 Tavern 16 Big gun 18 Ringlet 21 Gash 24 Islet 25 Amateur 26 Glad 27 Reveille
- DOWN: 1 Ruby 2 Thane 3 Call for 4 Needle 6 Hogging 7 Liddart 8 Kris 13 Starving 15 Vanilla 17 In-grate 18 Strafe 20 Lath 22 Swell 23 Tree

By RAYMOND KEENE, Chess Correspondent

This position is a variation taken from the game Mestel - Gufeld, Foreign & Colonial Hastings Premier 1986/87. How did international grandmaster Eduard Gufeld put an end to the struggle? British grandmasters Nunn and Speelman will be among the eight players in the top section at this year's Hastings tournament. Further details from the British Chess Federation on 0424 442500.

Solution on page 33.

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword with help levels, (runs on most PCs), call Alton Ltd on 081 852 4576 (24 hrs) or CDs on 0302 890000 - STOP PRESS! just released - the First Book of The Times Jumbo Concise Crosswords - ring Alton.

By PHILIP HOWARD

EPONYMS

- a. The autumnal crocus
 - b. A motor-neurone disease
 - c. Spin-produced acceleration
- FOURDRINIER**
- a. A four-horse French coach
 - b. Lightning and thunderclap
 - c. A paper-making machine

SHERIDANITE

- a. Member of a theatrical dining club
 - b. An enthusiastic boater
 - c. A chorine
- WALSINGHAM**
- a. A spy master
 - b. A woollen slipper
 - c. The Milky Way

Answers on page 33

THE CLASS DIFFERENCE

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TO 140
U.S. CITIES
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You may not be altogether surprised to hear that we can offer to fly you to New York and Houston every day of the week by 747. Not to mention 4 times a week non stop to Denver. And onwards to over 140 US cities. After all, we are one of the world's largest airlines.

The difference is that we also offer to collect our business class travellers from home* and take them to Gatwick by limousine. But then extra class always was one of our strengths. And we're getting stronger all the time.

Continental
Airlines

One Airline Can Make A Difference.

*Available within 40 mile radius of Gatwick Airport.



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The latest prime minister
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